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LD1506131088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's I Army Corps seized five strategic heights from the Iranians in a 14 June offensive in Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Iraqi troops stormed Iranian positions, penetrating fortifications, "wiping out the enemy rogues en masse," and capturing many others.

As for the situation on the southern front, an Iraqi military spokesman told WAKH that the battles east of Basra ended on 14 June after Iraqi troops had pushed the Iranians back across the international border to areas further east than before the start of their latest offensive. The Iranians suffered "very grave" losses, and "hundreds" were captured, he said, while Iraq's losses were "in the hundreds," and not the thousands claimed by Iran. Meanwhile, an Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio reported further Iraqi air strikes against Iranian military targets, including a raid on Ahvaz military airport.

In Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told journalists in remarks broadcast by Tehran radio that Iranian forces penetrated up to 12 km inside Iraq during the "Bayt al-Moqaddas 7" operations, but they "did not stay in the area" as this was a "practice operation" that provided for a "disciplined withdrawal." The acting commander in chief of Iranian forces linked the operation with his troops' desire for "revenge" after "certain events," but he indicated that Iran does not view its latest attack as a complete response to Iraq's actions in Al-Faw and Shalamcheh, as Iranian combatants are "very anxious to respond appropriately." Iranian losses in the operation were "low," Hasehmi-Rafsanjani asserted, while Iraqi casualties were "extensive." More specifically, an Iranian commander cited by IRNA claimed that Iraqi casualties had risen to 16,700 by 14 June, while a subsequent communique cited by Tehran radio maintained that another 1,500 Iraqis were killed or wounded in further fighting that morning.

Regarding Arab attitudes toward the Iran-Iraq war, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan told Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH that the Libyan and Syrian delegations to the Algiers summit displayed "positive stances," KUNA reported.

Iran

Ties With France—Iran and France will reestablish diplomatic ties 16 June and ambassadors will be exchanged shortly, according to a joint statement reported by IRNA.

Hajj Nonattendance—Iranian pilgrims are "deprived of the honor this year to be in the House of God" because of the "obstacles" created by the Saudi regime, Pilgrims' Supervisor Mahdi Karrubi stated in an interview with Tehran radio. He expressed hope that other Muslims will demonstrate in Mecca against the "infidels" and the "enemies of Islam," adding that Iranian Muslims will mark the day of "disavowal against the infidels"—the 6th day of the pilgrimage—with a "huge march" inside Iran.

Afghanistan

The Afghan charge in Islamabad was summoned to receive a "strong protest" over an artillery attack on a village near Chaman in Pakistan's southern Baluchistan Province, where 3 villagers were killed and 14 wounded, AFP reported.

In other military developments, the Afghan Air Force chief of staff was killed in action in southern Qandahar 6 June, according to Western diplomatic sources cited by AFP. "Kabul authorities" acknowledged the general's death and attributed it to "natural causes," the agency noted.

In remarks cited by KYODO, resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar declared that the rebels have "finalized a comprehensive plan" to attack Kabul and other major Afghan cities, and he noted that 90 percent of the territory around Khowst is under mujahidin control. The mujahidin leader also accused India of using listening posts in Jalalabad, Qandahar, and Gardeyz to intercept guerrilla communications and then passing such intelligence to Kabul and Moscow. Hikmatyar is scheduled to hand over the leadership of the seven-party alliance to National Islamic Front leader Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, KYODO noted.

Egypt

The security forces have dismantled a clandestine organization established to promote a "Khomeyniite revolution" in Egypt by seeking to "upset stability and security and carry out acts of sabotage," MENA announced. An investigation revealed that the group was formed at the instruction of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in retaliation for Egypt's support of Iraq in the Gulf war. Documents attesting to Iranian involvement were confiscated. The group's activities were financed by Iran as well as by "rich Arabs in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE," the agency reported, adding that of the group's 29 identified cell members, 19 have been arrested and 10 are still at large.

Israel

An IDF officer, two soldiers, and a civilian were injured when their vehicle crashed after being being stoned near Tulkarm, Jerusalem radio reported. The officer was

taken to the hospital, while the other passengers were slightly hurt. An Israeli settler was also hospitalized after being struck by a stone in the Jerusalem area, the radio added.

The Israeli authorities have closed schools in "Judaea and Samaria" 15-16 June to preempt plans for a school strike, Jerusalem television reported, noting that the continuation of disturbances is making the defense establishment reconsider whether schools in several places should have been reopened. In remarks carried by the radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he wants to meet with prominent personalities from the territories, and with "elements whose views are identical with those of the PLO," on condition that these people are not PLO members and have not participated in PLO activity.

Lebanon

The IDF foiled an attempt to infiltrate into the "security zone," killing four "terrorists" and wounding others, IDF radio reported. The Amal Movement confirmed the incident in a statement carried by Beirut radio, acknowledging that four of its men were killed and several wounded in a "grinding battle" with Israeli and South Lebanese Army (SLA) troops in the Bayt Yahun area. Amal claimed, however, that the IDF-SLA forces suffered "grave losses," and it announced that Amal will "step up resistance until the occupied border strip has been liberated." The SLA's Voice of Hope radio stressed that no SLA personnel were hurt in the clash.

Libya

Talks between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat covered the recent "fratricide" in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Tripoli radio reported. 'Arafat is in Libya to attend an international conference to support the Palestinian uprising, JANA added.

OPEC Meeting

The 83rd OPEC conference concluded in Vienna with an agreement to extend the production and quota levels established in December 1987 until the end of 1988, according to an OPEC press release carried bu OPECNA. This is aimed at ensuring market stability and is a "gesture of cooperation" with non-OPEC oil producers, with whom OPEC will continue contacts aimed at achieving a proper basis for long-term cooperation.

Comments after the meeting included the Iraqi oil minister's statement that his country is "not in the agreement," and the UAE minister's assertion that the Emirate's allocated quota is "not necessarily its official quota," AFP noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Minister Visits Saudi King After Summit

JN1006135888 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1145 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Text] Algiers, 10 June (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and RCC member, visited Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at his place of residence in Algiers after the conclusion of the Arab summit. They discussed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers and expressed satisfaction with the contents of the final communique which pledged support for the Palestinian uprising until the Palestinian people had achieved their legitimate objectives. They also expressed satisfaction with the comprehensive Arab denunciation of Iranian aggression against Iraq, and for the summit's blessings of Iraq's liberation of its territory from the Iranian invaders.

Ramadan praised Saudi Arabia's efforts at the summit in this regard.

Saudi King Fahd reiterated his country's support for Iraq's defense of its territory and sovereignty. He praised Iraq's great victories in Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and Al-Faw. King Fahd asked Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn. He stressed Saudi Arabia's commitment to supporting Iraq, its satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations, its readiness to promote them further, and its solidarity with Iraq's policies to strengthen the Arab stand.

Al-Jumayyil on Algiers Meeting With Al-Asad

JN1306202488 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
11 Jun 88 pp 1, 20

[By Shakir al-Jawhari]

[Excerpts] Algiers—A new page was turned in Syrian-Lebanese relations after a lengthy meeting between President al-Asad and President al-Jumayyil at the former's residence. An expanded 15-minute meeting was held first with aides present on both sides. Then the two presidents had a one-to-one meeting to review Lebanese issues and agreed to hold further contacts in the future. A member of the Lebanese delegation told AL-SIYASAH that the presidents undertook an assessment of their past relations and charted their future course as well as removing numerous obstacles. The source said that the two discussed all matters of shared interest. He described the meetings as cordial, frank, and objective. The meeting stressed the need for Syrian-Lebanese cooperation, particularly as fateful events [the presidential elections] are approaching in Lebanon. The Lebanese source emphasized that the discussions were held in a friendly atmosphere and that it could be said that Syrian-Lebanese relations had begun another chapter based on frankness and new horizons. [passage omitted]

Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil told AL-SIYASAH the meeting was highly important, being the first such contact since 1986. Things have accumulated since then. It was a very useful and cordial meeting during which a new page in bilateral relations was turned. It cannot be said that all outstanding issues were solved in 2 hours. The president said we ought to establish a program of action in our relations, which may develop unless there are snags on the ground, especially since presidential elections are approaching. He explained that by snags he does not mean isolated shooting incidents but political stands of this or that party. President al-Jumayyil said that the fact that the meeting with President al-Asad took place at all will be a relief to the Lebanese situation, since the Lebanese question cannot be properly addressed without coming to an understanding with Syria. Some of these obstacles have already been removed during the meeting with the Syrian president, he added. He now takes a brighter view of the future. The president said there are major problems that have accumulated over the years and it would be hard to say they do not exist any longer, but it is fair to say the groundwork has been laid for their resolution. If we follow up on our work, we may work out the right approach to the elections. In reply to the question of whether the Lebanese problem may be nearing a solution against the backdrop of the Moscow and Algiers summits, Al-Jummayil said he does not think the Lebanese issue figured prominently at the Moscow meeting—only as part of the Mideast question. He added: We do not want to count on pipe dreams or wait for each new term in the White House. As for the Arab summit, it gave special emphasis to the Lebanese issue and the summit's closing comunique's paragraph on Lebanon meets the aspirations of all Lebanese. Its formulation was useful and unlike all the other communiques. The president said Lebanon featured in all the contacts at the summit and that he smoothed things over by convincing Al-Qadhdhafi to shelve certain proposals that could have fundamentally affected the conference. He attributed his success with Al-Qadhdhafi to the seating arrangements as Al-Qadhdhafi and the Lebanese president were seated alongside each other at the conference hall. His task was made easier by his proposal that the summit focus on the Palestinian people's uprising. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets With Turkish Delegation in Libya

TA1406190788 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1600 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The Turkish delegation currently in Banghazi to participate in the international conference for solidarity with the Palestinian uprising, has met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, 'Arafat stated that the Palestinian people will never forget Turkey's support.

ANATOLIA reports 'Arafat as saying that Turkey can play a major role in the support for the Palestinians as a result of its moral, political, and historic responsibility.

In turn, Gurbuz Yilmaz, ANAP deputy from Ordu, who is leading the delegation, said that Turkey supported the Palestinians just cause. Pointing out that Turkey was aware of its deep historic ties with the Palestinian people, Yilmaz said: We are proud of your just cause.

Murat Sokmenoglu, ANAP deputy from Hatay; Edit Servet Devrimci, a deputy SDPP secretary general; and Professor Dogu Ergin also participated in the meeting with 'Arafat.

Report on Salah Khalaf News Conference
LD1406155588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1503 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 14 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official lauded here Tuesday results of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Algiers June 7-9.

Central Committee member of Fatah movement, major component of the PLO, Salah Khalaf described the summit as the most successful one in support of the Palestine cause.

Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, told a press conference in Fatah office in Jaberiya suburb, that despite attempts to hurdle that conference yet it was held at the insistence of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The summit's resolutions will boost the Palestinian popular uprising, he said, noting that the summiteers have reaffirmed the Palestinian people's rights of self-determination, return and statehood.

He affirmed, meanwhile, the failure of all suppressive attempts to contain the revolt and underlined that "our people will continue revolting until complete rights are secured."

Abu Iyad stressed that the upheaval is organized more than anyone thinks and said that its various stages are progressing steadily.

The ultimate stage of civil disobedience depends on ensuring financial resources to more then 200,000 laborers in the occupied territories in addition to other circumstances, he elaborated.

The enemy had pursued all savage measures to quell the uprising, the Palestinian official said, adding that the Zionists have only two methods left, namely mass deportation and killings.

However, he emphasized all those atrocities will not check the Palestinian people's determination to continue the uprising.

Asked on the situation in Lebanon, Abu Iyad said that the Arab country is approaching the presidential elections which he described as an opportunity to forge national unity among various factions.

He reiterated the Palestinians backing to any solution accepted by the Lebanese to rid their country from its current ordeal.

In response to another question on formation of a Palestinian government in exile, he said that the issue is included on agenda of the Palestinian leadership.

However, time is not ripe yet for tabling that subject since it should coincide with a near end to the occupation and the start of negotiations between the parties concerned.

Asked on the return of Egypt to the Arab League, Abu Iyad said that the issue should be discussed in an Arab summit and pointed to Egypt's material and moral weight in the Arab ranks.

Milhim on Ties With Egypt, Soviet Stand
NC1406125888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Amman, 14 Jun (MENA)—Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that everyone understands that without Egypt no war will be fought and no peace will be made, for a country as influential as Egypt has a bearing on all the questions of peace and war, he added.

Milhim told a MENA correspondent in Amman that the PLO wants to see Egypt back in its proper place in the Arab League and at Arab summits. The PLO, he said, believes that the return of Egypt need not be discussed at an emergency summit, but at an ordinary Arab summit. This is because the return of Egypt must be seen as a normal and not an extraordinary matter. The Palestinian official said that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is looking forward to visiting Egypt. He noted that the visit will take place at the appropriate time and added that high-level Palestinian-Egyptian consultations and meetings are always taking place.

Milhim described as distinguished the relations between the PLO and Jordan and said that the circumstances are more favorable now than at any other time for Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan.

Milhim said that the PNC will hold its 19th meeting at the time deemed appropriate by the PLO and the Palestinian people, hinting that such a meeting may take place this year.

The Palestinian official said that the PLO is satisfied with the Soviet stand on the Middle East. The Soviet stand is clear and based on unshifting principles, Milhim said, noting that Mikhail Gorbachev's new policy is one of openness and includes a desire to settle regional conflicts.

'Uprising Youths' Set Fire to 100,000 Dunums

JN1406120588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] The uprising youths have set fire to approximately 100,000 dunums of woodland over the past 6 weeks. The loss has been estimated at millions of shekels. Zionist circles believe that this series of fires has moved the uprising inside the so-called green line; that is, 1948 Palestine. In response to these fires, a group of Zionist settlers started fires in eight places in the West Bank. The heroic youths set fire to the Churchill forest in upper Nazareth in Galilee. This resulted in the burning of 70 dunums of trees in the forest. Following that incident, the enemy police detained many citizens. They also detained two youths from Kafr Kanna village on charges of setting fire to a bus in the village.

A report broadcast by the enemy radio in Hebrew in this regard said that the Zionist police are on a state of alert and are prepared for the possibility of other fires in the future, especially as it has been proved that these fires were started deliberately. The radio added that the Zionist police and border guards are reinforcing their presence throughout 1948 Palestine. Observation posts have been erected in forest and woodland areas. The Zionist police also detained three Palestinian youths from the Jisr al-Zarqa' village, southeast of Haifa, on the pretext that they had set fire to a forest near Haifa.

Citing security sources, the Zionist radio said that the Zionist security forces view with extreme seriousness the deliberate fires inside the so-called green line which have destroyed many properties. This has resulted in the loss of tens of millions of dollars. The Zionist security forces have asked the Zionist settlers to be vigilant and to provide suitable equipment for extinguishing fires and to take precautionary measures to safeguard their property.

Finally, the enemy radio cited a senior security source as saying that the phenomenon of deliberately setting fire to forests and woodlands is dangerous and must be combatted with all means. He said that Cali No 19 distributed by the uprising unified leadership called for damaging Zionist properties.

'Arafat Opponents Announce Camps Cease-Fire

JN1406190688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the provisional command of the Fatah Movement, has stated the following: In response to the good offices undertaken by the Palestinian resistance factions, out of our commitment to our national course of protecting our revolution and pursuing the revolution, out of our concern for the safety of our masses in the camps in Lebanon and in order to restore normal life to the camps as was the case before 1 May, we announce a unilateral cease-fire as of 0800 this morning, 14 June 1988.

OPEC Affairs

Ministerial Conference Concludes 14 Jun

Production Quotas Discussed

LD1306102388 Vienna OPECNA in English 0957 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Vienna, 13 June 88 (OPECNA)—OPEC oil ministers are today continuing informal consultations on oil production for the second half of the year.

The consultations are expected to also cover the OPEC response to the offer by six non-OPEC oil producers to cut five percent of their exports in line with OPEC efforts to strengthen prices.

OPEC conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman had told OPECNA following the adjournment of the ministerial conference Sunday that the ministers would also be working on the "re-integration" of Iraq into the production quota fold.

Reports received by the ministers at their morning session Sunday included those on technical definitions, contact with non-OPEC producers and visits last month by the Dutch auditing firm KKC to OPEC member countries.

'Existing Agreement' Extended

AU1406122588 Paris AFP in English 1224 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Vienna, June 14 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers agreed Tuesday to extend their existing agreement to limit production until the end of the year, Iranian and Algerian sources said after a plenary session of talks here.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh also that the official selling price of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would be maintained at 18 dollars a barrel in the final resolution.

The oil ministers also decided to appoint former Indonesian Oil Minister Dr. Subroto as the organization's secretary general.

The oil ministers are expected to resume talks at 1500 GMT to finalize the agreement.

Iraq Dissents From Accord

AU1406194788 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Vienna, June 14 (AFP)—OPEC oil producers Tuesday night formally endorsed an accord extending their current crude oil production limits until the end of the year.

Iraq's oil minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi told reporters as he emerged from the final session of OPEC oil ministers that "I am not in the agreement."

Hisham Nazir of Saudi Arabia, the first minister to leave the OPEC secretariat building, confirmed that the final accord was completed and signed. Mani 'Ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah of the United Arab Emirates, said he had signed the accord, and would continue to assist OPEC but said the Emirates' allocated quota was "not necessarily its official quota."

Iranian Minister Comments

LD1406195788 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Vienna, June 14, IRNA—Oil ministers of the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ended their morning session at 15:00 hours GMT today.

At the end of the session Iranian Oil Minister Gholan Reza Aqazadeh said that the official oil price of 18 dollars per barrel would be included in the current session's ratifications. He also said all rulings would be valid for the next six months.

Kuwaiti Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said that the decision made at the previous regular session last December would be extended for the second half of the current year.

The afternoon session is expected to finalize the reached agreements, he added.

Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti announced that the proposal concerning the appointment of Indonesian former minister of mines and energy Dr. Subroto as OPEC secretary-general was under study and concluded that a committee would follow discussions about tariffs.

Saudi Arabian Petroleum Minister Hisham Nazir said that his country was for an increase in production ceiling, but accepted the present figure of 15.06 million barrels a day for the next six months in order that members might work-out an agreement. In my opinion the 83rd session of OPEC is now finished, he added.

In future, Saudi Arabia will only attend an extraordinary session if it is solely concerned about increase in production ceiling, said a ranking official of the Saudi Arabian delegation. He added Riyadh would under no conditions attend a session in which a decrease in the production ceiling is to be discussed.

Meanwhile according to reliable sources the session has not agreed upon Subroto's terms for acceptigng the post of secretary-general. Subroto said that he would accept the post on condition that he is responsible only to the ministerial sessions. According to OPEC regulations the secretary-general should act under the board of chairmen.

Before the session, Iraqi Oil Minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has reportedly opposed the appointment of Subroto as the secretary-general. While Aqazadeh stressed the members' agreement on the appointment of Subroto.

A recent report says that OPEC's production ceiling for the next six months is decided at 15.06 million barrels a day. The figure includes all member countries' quotas except that of Iraq.

According to the report, Aqazadeh said Iran was for a decrease in production ceiling in order to achieve a price of 18 dollars per barrel, but voted for extending the present accord for the sake of reaching a desired agreement.

Conference Press Release

LD1406213288 Vienna OPECNA in English 2100 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Vienna, 14 June 88 (OPECNA)—At the conclusion here today of the 83rd meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued: 83rd meeting of the OPEC conference Vienna, Austria, 11th - 14th June, 1988

The 83rd meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Vienna, Austria, from 11th to 14th June, 1988.

The conference unanimously re-elected as its president HE Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, minister of petroleum resources of Nigeria and head of its delegation. HE Dr. Fernando Santos Alvite, minister of energy and mines of Ecuador and head of its delegation, was unanimously re-elected alternate president.

The conference reviewed and discussed the reports of the five-minister committee on price evolution, the group of five ministers on contacts with non-OPEC producers, the independent auditors and the economic commission board. After having examined the supply/demand outlook for the second half of 1988, and in order to secure market stability during that period, and as a gesture of cooperation with the non-OPEC oil producing countries, the signatories to the December 1987 agreement decided to extend such agreement for the remainder of the year, on the same basis of a production ceiling of 15.06 mb/d for the twelve member countries, distributed into national production levels in the same manner as laid down in that agreement, including the provision regarding the five minister committee on price evolution.

The conference, moreover, discussed the cooperation with certain non-OPEC oil producing countries as the only means for securing lasting stability in the world oil market and welcomed the offer those countries made recently. In this respect, the conference decided to continue the efforts and contacts with the oil producing countries outside OPEC, with a view to achieving the proper base for long-term cooperation among oil producers.

The conference also considered the report of member countries' experts on definitions and decided that this committee should continue its deliberations and submit its recommendations and proposals on the various issues under consideration to the next meeting of the conference.

The conference unanimously appointed he Dr. Subroto as secretary general for a period of three years with effect from 1st July, 1988, in accordance with Article 28.1 of the statute.

The conference extended the term of office of Dr. Fadhil J. al-Chalabi as deputy secretary general until 30th June, 1989.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of the Federal Republic of Austria and to the authorities of the city of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 14th July, 1988 after ratification by member countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna on 21st November, 1988.

Chad

Minister Addresses Diplomats on Food Shortage

AB1406184388 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Chad is once again faced with new threats of drought and, in particular, famine. This morning, the minister of food security and afflicted groups announced a grain deficit of 140,000 tons, caused by insufficient rainfall and poor rainfall distribution [words indistinct]. Conscious of the resulting danger facing the country, the Chadian Government has raised an alarm and appealed for international assistance. This was disclosed this morning by Seid Bauche, the minister of food security and afflicted groups [title as heard], when he addressed ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and representatives of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations. Let us listen to Minister Seid Bauche's address.

[Begin recording] In the first place, I would like to thank you very sincerely for responding to my call, despite your many duties. This sufficiently demonstrates the interest that you have always shown in my country and the very special attention that you have always paid to the life of Chad and of Chadians. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the purpose of our meeting this morning is to inform you about the current food situation in Chad and our fears for the coming months.

Indeed, in close collaboration with some of the members of CAPSAAU, the Action Committee for Food Security and Emergency Assistance, [Comite d'Action Pour la Securite Alimentaire et l'Aide d'Urgence] it was envisaged that food aid would be distributed throughout the Sahel zone up until 5 August 1988 and up until 2 December in the BET [Borkou-Ennendi-Tibesti] area, since this prefecture is a special case, as we all know. The necessary quantities were fixed on the basis of information and data given by the (SAP), Early Warning Service, in the case of the Sahel zones, and by various reliable sources, in the case of the entire Sudan zone. It was a matter of providing the minimum quantity to enable the farmers to go through the difficult period known as the lean period. I repeat that it was only a matter of forecasts. We hoped that we would receive the necessary assistance from the international community and friendly countries to satisfy their needs. Unfortunately, the response did not meet our expectations, and this has resulted in continued famine in several areas and the resurgence of famine in new areas of the BET region which until then had been safe from famine. We have noticed the movement of people from north to south. This situation has been compounded by the ever-increasing number of returnees, almost all of whom are completely destitute.

After two relatively good agricultural seasons, Chad is faced again with the drought and hunger caused by the poor distribution of rainfall and the invasion of all sorts of pests, which have caused a poor harvest and a total grain deficit of about 140,000 tons. Ladies and gentlemen, the purpose of today's meeting is to inform you of the government's concern about this situation and to ask you to inform your respective countries and headquarters about it so that they can grant the appropriate emergency assistance to Chad. If they fail to take action, they would be contributing, either consciously or unconsciously, to the death of many Chadians who will fall victim to natural disaster. But I know that you will demonstrate your solidarity once again as you have done during extremely difficult periods in the past, and in this way prevent innocent people from paying with their lives [words indistinct] caused by nature.

We must refrain from saying that the situation is not yet serious. Let us not wait for it to get to the point of no return—as has happened in some African countries—before taking action. From this moment, let us take the necessary steps to bring the calamity under control while we still have time. Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the Republic of Chad, which is a developing country, greatly appreciates the precious assistance that it has so far received from its friends and the international community in all areas of national life. But as you know very well, all the efforts at development will be in vain if man, the primary element in the fulfillment of this program, is unable to take the necessary measures expected of him. That is why I am asking you to do everything possible to help us fulfil our food program. Just as it is possible to bring in this foreign assistance, it is also possible to buy up some thousands of tons of grain in some regions like Salamat, Vera, and Chari-Gbaguirmi. And since these local purchases must serve to satisfy the immediate needs of the people in the arid areas, the government is launching an urgent appeal to the international community to help provide us with the means to achieve this objective.

You will receive through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the government's directives in which (?ample) data is provided on the issue.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in view of your busy schedules, I need not take undue advantage of your patience. So, on behalf of the government of the Third Republic, I wish to thank you again in advance for your readiness and prompt action in cooperating with us. [end recording]

Egypt

Clandestine Group Uncovered; Defendants Listed

NC1406205688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian security authorities have uncovered a clandestine organization preaching a Khomeyni-style doctrine and calling for the

promotion of the Khomeyniite revolution. The organization, which is made up of secret cells working independently and uninformed of each other's activities, seeks to upset stability and security and carry out acts of sabotage in Egypt. The organization is connected to some organizations abroad who are engaged in exporting the Khomeyniite revolution.

The state security prosecutor was notified of the situation and a permit was obtained to monitor and unveil the organization's members. They were apprehended last May before completely establishing the organization's hierarchical structure. The organization includes 29 people; 19 have been arrested, but the remaining 10 are still at large. There are some foreigners within the organization: Kuwaitis, Lebanese, Pakistanis, Palestinians, Iraqis, and Saudis.

The investigations by Egyptian state security officers revealed that the organization is in touch with three foreign parties: the apparatus in charge of exporting the Iranian revolution and Iranian intelligence, the pro-Iran Lebanese Hizballah, and the Iraqi Call [Al-Da'wa] Party. Financing for the organization came from some rich Arabs in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE. Additional funds came from Iran, Shi'ite students studying in Arab universities, and proceeds from the sale of Shi'ite books at book fairs.

It has also been revealed that organization members traveled abroad to attend training and military courses in the Iranian city of Qom, via Cyprus and India. The case has been referred to the State Security Higher Prosecution Office for interrogation.

Here is a list of the 29 defendants in the case: Muhammad Ayman 'Abd al-Khaliq, physician and owner of the Dar al-Shifa' Hospital in Hulwan; 'Amr Samir Tawfiq, interior decorator; Salih Ibrahim al-Wardani, a journalist working in Kuwait; Sa'id Ayyub, a journalist for (?Sunday Press); Rajab 'Abd al-Hasib, electrician; 'Asim Mutawalli, welder; Rajab Hilal Hamidah, worker; 'Atif Sayyid Mahmud, a student at Cairo University's Medical College; Ahmad Hasan Hilal, a physician at Dr Jamal Abu al-'Azayim Hospital; Hisham Mahmud 'Ali, a student at the engineering college; Khalid 'Abd al-'Azim Mansur, a student at Al-Zaqaziq Medical School; Sayyid 'Ali Husayn, driver; 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Rahman Isma'il, a physician from Aswan; Musa al-Falaki, grocer; (Muhammad 'Ali Diyar), a Pakistani; Muhammad 'Ali Sulayman, a (?Bahraini) and student at Cairo University's Medical College.

Also named as defendents were: Badr al-Amir 'Azzam, a student at the Arab Studies College, Iraqi; Sadiq Salih Mahdi, a student at the Arab Studies College, Iraqi; Isma'il Salih Muhammad, owner of an export and import firm, Saudi; Muhammad Mughanniyah, Lebanese; Zayd Farahat, Lebanese; Nasim Ahmad 'Ali, Kuwaiti; Muhammad Hasan al-Abbasi, journalist; Muhammad Fikri al-Shihabi, Bahraini; Fu'ad al-'Isam, a student at 'Ayn Shams Sciences School, Palestinian; Muhammad Ahmad 'Anbar, mechanical engineer; Husayn 'Ali Hayin, a graduate of Al-Azhar University; Hani 'Adil al-Mahmud, a student at the American University in Cairo; and Ibrahim 'Ali al-Ghamri, who has a diploma in commerce.

Directed by Iranian

NC1506085588 Cairo MENA in English 0634 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, June 15 (MENA)—The State Security Investigation Department uncovered a terrorist organisation financed by Iran and directed by the Iranian intelligence service comprising 29 Egyptians, Pakistanis and Arabs of various nationalities, the three Cairo Arabic dailies said today.

Nineteen members of the ring have been arrested and ten others are at large abroad, the papers add.

The papers further reported that the investigation carried out revealed that Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni gave instructions for the formation of this organization in Egypt in retaliation for Egypt's support of Iraq in its war against Iran. The prosecution ordered that the defendants be remanded in custody.

The defendants were found in possession of important documents attesting to their connection with the Iranian regime and to their having travelled to Iran to receive instructions and funds. The defendants confessed to the schemes and objectives of the ring.

The ring is headed by 'Ali Akbar Mahdi, who was charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Cairo and who was expelled from Egypt some time ago, the papers added.

Assisting the leader of the ring was an Egyptian physician named Muhammad Ayman 'Abd al-Khaliq, who owns Dar al-Shifa' Hospital in Hulwan.

The defendants in the case include Egyptians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Kuwaitis, Bahrainis, Pakistanis and Saudi Arabians.

The papers added that the investigation revealed that members of the terrorist ring had tried to recruit some leaders of opposition parties to sponsor and spread the Khomeyniist movement in Egypt but none responded to their overtures. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Shultz To Answer Shamir Claim

NC1106065688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM newspaper expressed surprise at a recent press statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. In this statement, Shamir said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz did not discuss the U.S. initiative for peace in the

Middle East with him and that the talks between them were confined to generalities dealing with the region's future and the Moscow summit results.

In an editorial in Saturday's edition, the newspaper says that if Shamir is lying or making a false claim, then Shultz himself must decisively say so. If, however, Shamir is telling the truth, then all we can deduce from this is that Shultz knew in advance that it would be totally futile to return to the issue which Shamir had already rejected several times.

The paper adds that Shultz has privately reached the conclusion that it is no longer of any use to try to reach an understanding on the initiative with Shamir. Consequently, he has turned his attention to another figure, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He held a private meeting with him and announced that he had reached agreement with him on some of the principles of the initiatives.

The paper urges Shultz to make things absolutely clear and tell the world media the truth of what happened, now that Shamir has personally challenged him and denounced his statements as being designed merely for local Arab consumption.

The paper concludes by declaring that matters have reached the point where it is necessary to tell the international public what Shultz' four tours of the region have or have not achieved. This is particularly true as there are signs that he might carry out a fifth tour if the circumstances of the U.S. elections permit.

No Egyptian Officials To Receive Israel's Tamir

JN1406140288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (WAKH)—It has been learned in Cairo that the current visit of Avraham Tamir, director of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office [title as received], to Cairo falls within the framework of an inspection visit to the Israeli Embassy in Cairo.

An informed source stated to the WAKH correspondent in Cairo that no Egyptian officials will receive the Israeli official and dismissed as baseless reports that he held talks with Egyptian officials on peace in the region.

Avraham Tamir arrived in Cairo yesterday evening. There was nobody at the airport to receive him other than the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason.

Algeria Accused of 'Political Adolescence'

JN1206161088 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Jun 88 pp 1, 8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article within the "Political Situation" column entitled: "The Algerian President's Political Classification: Iran is More Arab Than Egypt"]

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid is mistaken if he believes that his strange policy toward Egypt has succeeded in isolating Egypt from the Arab world. President Chadli Bendjedid is also mistaken if he imagines that the identity of Egypt, the biggest Arab state, cannot be achieved except through a unilateral decision made by the Algerian Government. The Algerian ruler is also mistaken if he goes too far in dreams and imaginations and believes that Egypt—its government and people—has no concern or hope other than awaiting the agreement of Chadli Bendjedid's government to restoration of relations with poor Egypt.

There are several signs of political adolescence that are being practiced by the Algerian Government against a people who have done nothing wrong against its country, and against a regime that has proved its honesty, wisdom, and credibility. As a people, we believed that the Algerian Government would be the first Arab government to restore relations with Egypt, which was the first Arab state to support the Algerian revolution against the hateful French occupation. It is because of this hostile Egyptian stand that France joined Israel and Britain in carrying out the tripartite aggression against Egypt in which thousands of Egyptian martyrs fell in 1956. We imagined that the country of the million martyrs had not forgotten and will not forget the Egyptian people's sacrifices and enthusiasm for its revolution, and the Egyptian people's strong support for its rights. We believed that our stand would contribute to establishing distinguished relations between the two fraternal peoples that no political adolescent that rules in this or that state could affect or drive a wedge in or estrange. Regrettably, what we had not wished or expected was achieved.

The current Algerian president has proven more than once that he is the strongest opponent of Egypt, the one who gloats the most over its problems, the quickest to isolate it, and the one who wants most to harm its image, prestige, and weight. He was disappointed when he saw the Arab states, one after another, restoring their relations with Egypt while he had based his entire political future on Egypt's continued isolation from the Arabs. In his opinion, circumstances have allowed his regime to lead the Arab nation in the absence of Egypt from the Arab arena, and consequently Egypt's return to the Arab fold would shatter his hopes of leading the Arab nation. Perhaps, this feeling has confused the Algerian leadership and made it adopt strange and contradictory stands.

We have heard a great deal about the Algerian Government's desire to restore its relations with Egypt. We heard several Algerian statements praising Egypt's weight, deep roots, and pan-Arabism. We heard all this before we heard it from several Arab capitals. Despite all this, these capitals have restored relations with Egypt one after another while the Algerian capital still makes do with the statements and wishes of its leaders and with its overt and covert contacts with the Egyptian capital.

Cairo has conformed with all that it heard from or about Algeria. When the Algerian Government requested talks with the Egyptian Government we welcomed this initiative and gave Algeria the right to announce or not announce these talks because Egypt does not want to

embarrass anyone. Egypt does not want to pressure any fraternal state to make any decision for which it is not enthusiastic or accepts. Moreover, Egypt does not want to set the restoration of relations as a condition for any rapprochement or contacts with the Arab states that severed their relations with Egypt.

The Algerian leadership knew all this, since they were the ones who requested the formation of a bilateral committee to handle the drafting of the decision to reinstate Egyptian-Algerian relations. The committee met more than once in Algiers and Cairo. Eventually the two sides agreed on the formula for the statement which was to have been simultaneously released in the Algerian and Egyptian capitals to mark the restoration of ties. A date was also fixed for the announcement on restoring relations.

Then suddenly, the Algerian Government decided to postpone the date. Algeria asked that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, or Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser, go to Algiers and that an announcement on the visit be published in newspapers, to be followed by another announcement on restored relations. Cairo rejected this bizarre Algerian request. Why should a high-level Egyptian official visit the Algerian capital and then an announcement be made on reinstating relations?!

The Algerian Government could have justified this request by stating its desire to hold highly important talks to sort out some outstanding points before an announcement on the restoration of relations was made. The Algerian Government was only interested in having two announcements made: one on the arrival in Algiers of an Egyptian official and another on the restoration of relations during his visit. Even a dunce could understand the significance of the Algerian Government's request. They wanted to tell the world that in its eagerness to resume ties with Algeria, Egypt sent an envoy to the Algerian capital, as if for Egypt it was a question of life or death.

Egypt's response was an unequivocal refusal, for many reasons, not least being that the request that an Egyptian official be sent to Algeria ahead of an announcement on the restoration of relations was an attempt to show that Egypt was eager to see the ties reinstated. None of the Arab countries that restored ties with Egypt made such a bizarre request. By contrast, these states were solicitous for Egypt's dignity and its leadership. It took none of these countries several months to agree on a restoration of relations. Nor did any of them insist that a word or sentence in the announcement be changed. On the contrary, these countries showed generosity and they promptly initiated moves to restore ties with Egypt without talks, haggling, or stipulations. This conduct by these states is to be commended and appreciated by all the Egyptians. Therefore, it was necessary and natural that Egypt should deny the request of the Algerian Government, which needed many months to hold talks on restoring ties and still longer to choose every word and sentence in the statement. Not only that, but the Algerian Government required the presence of a high-level Egyptian official in Algiers before an announcement would be made. It makes no sense that the Egyptian leadership should grant this strange Algerian demand in preference to other, generous Arab countries, which, having recognized the inevitability of a restoration of relations with Egypt, made unconditional announcements, on their own initiative, on a reinstatement of ties.

It is clear that Egypt's rejection of Algeria's conditions has pleased the Algerian leadership. As proven by its previous positions toward us, this leadership is not willing to resume relations with Egypt. It was obliged to hold talks with us on this issue to avert any accusation by the entire Arab world that it is not concerned about Arab solidarity and that it opposes efforts to bring the largest Arab country back into the Arab fold after a long absence. In other words, the Algerian Government tried to place obstacles and impose conditions on Egypt because it knew that Egypt would not bow. The aim was to postpone the announcement of the resumption of relations with Egypt and to persuade the Arab world that Egypt was responsible for preventing this step, which the Egyptian and Algerian peoples are eager to take.

During the African summit conference, which was convened in the Ethiopian capital several days ago, Algeria's hostility to Egypt's participation was clear to all the leaders of the African countries. For example, the Algerian leadership lost all its balance when it learned that the overwhelming majority of the African countries support the nomination of Dr Butrus Ghali for one of the principal posts in the OAU leadership. Algeria exerted great efforts to persuade the African countries to approve the nomination of its foreign minister for the same post. But, all these efforts have failed, and the African countries insisted on selecting Dr Butrus Ghali and rejected the nomination of the Algerian foreign minister. As a result, the Algerian leadership asked the Egyptian leadership to withdraw the nomination of Ghali and support the nomination of the Algerian foreign minister. Algeria hinted that such an Egyptian position would contribute to the quick announcement of the resumption of bilateral relations. But this pressure did not achieve its goal. The Egyptian leadership did not try to win the post, but most African countries insisted that the Egyptian representative occupy the post in the OAU. As a result, Egypt had no choice but to accede to the desire of these countries and to accept the nomination of Dr Butrus Ghali. This is what hapened, and Dr Butrus Ghali won the post supported by a majority of the African countries, which did not vote for the Algerian foreign minister. What is strange is that following the announcement of the result, all the other candidates congratulated the winning Egyptian representative, except the Algerian foreign minister who became excited and angry and withdrew from the session. This amazed the Africans who were upset by the deterioration of relations between

two Arab countries to the degree that one of their representatives lost his nerve and balance, did not join the other African candidates in congratulating his Egyptian colleague, and left the session angry and threatening.

Egypt's patience under President Husni Mubarak is unlimited, especially with regard to relations with the fraternal Arab countries, no matter how far some of them go to concoct plots. This was proven before, during, and after the recent Arab summit conference in Algiers. More than one country stressed the need to invite Egypt to attend the summit, especially since the summit's agenda was restricted to ways to support and continue the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Due to its weight and support for the uprising, Egypt's views on this issue should be considered. Despite this, Algeria, the summit host, strongly opposed any invitation to Egypt to attend the summit. It also demonstrated extreme hostility to what can be said or proposed by Egypt regarding the uprising.

The great majority of Arab states that participated in this conference had no reservations about the call to invite Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to attend the summit conference held in the Algerian capital. Through its leader Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO insisted on the importance of Egypt's participation in the Arab summit conference. Likewise, all the Gulf states stressed this importance and the need for Egypt's attendance. However, the Algerian leadership, in its capacity as the hosting party, rejected the request of the great majority of Arab states and insisted on keeping Egypt away from the summit, even if it was compelled to cancel the summit and throw the Palestinian uprising overboard. From the Algerian leadership's point of view, keeping Egypt away from participation in the formation of unified Arab decisionmaking is 1 million times more important than the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Despite this flagrant and strange Algerian hostility to Egypt, the Egyptian leadership was not angry or upset. Moreover, Egypt did not consider pressuring others, its allies, and those who insist on Egypt's presence among them—and there are many of them in our Arab world—to force Algeria to realize the importance and inevitability of an effective Egyptian presence in a conference that discusses an important Arab issue, where Egypt's absence is hard to conceive.

Many Arab leaders told Egyptian President Husni Mubarak they were not convinced of the Algerian stand which rejected Egyptian attendance. Many Arab leaders, presidents, kings, and amirs told the Egyptian president they reject an Arab summit conference not attended by the president of the largest Arab state in the region. However, President Husni Mubarak managed to convince the majority of these leaders of the need for their participation in the Algiers summit conference, whether Egypt was invited or not. This is because the issue involves the Palestinian uprising and whether this uprising will continue or not. After all, the issue is whether the Palestinian people will regain their missing rights or if Israel can control and destroy this uprising. However, whether Egypt is invited to the Arab summit or not, this is a secondary matter from the Egyptian leadership's point of view, and should not be given much consideration. What is important is that the summit conference adopt resolutions that realize the objectives of the Arab nation in general and those of the Palestinian people in particular. If such a goal is achieved, then Egypt, which did not participate in the summit conference, will be the first supporter and the quickest party to advocate these resolutions, although it did not participate in their formulation and its viewpoint on them was not requested.

Despite this Egyptian leniency, which is not accepted by most of the friendly leaders and rulers of the fraternal Arab states, the Algerian leadership viewed it as a weakness and capitulation by the largest Arab state in the region. Moreover, we are surprised by the leadership's violation of the rules of tact, which it should have enjoyed, and also its taking a step which any neutral person can only describe as political adolescence and a lack of the simplest principles of fraternity with its known and inherited traditions. The Algerian leadership that did its utmost to keep Egypt away from the Arab summit conference, which, unfortunately, was held in the Algerian capital, was not content with the "success" it realized, despite the rejection and dissatisfaction of most Arab states which participated in this conference. It also insisted on revealing its suspect identity, that is opposed to all Arab objectives in general and that is hostile to anything that is Egyptian in particular. It invited all foreign ambassadors in the Algerian capital to attend the public opening session of the Arab summit conference, except for Egyptian Ambassador Husayn Ahmad Amin, who is in charge of caring for Egyptian interests in Algeria.

For us, the failure to invite the Egyptian ambassador to attend the session is neither important nor alarming. From the Algerian Government's point of view, Algerian-Egyptian relations are still broken off, and, consequently, the diplomat in charge of Egyptian interests in Algeria is not entitled to attend the opening session of the summit with the foreign ambassadors whose countries have diplomatic relations with Algeria. A detached person may accept this logic, but he will soon be shocked when he realizes that the Algerian Government invited the Iranian ambassador in Algiers to attend the opening session of the Arab summit while it refrained from inviting the Egyptian ambassador, Husayn Ahmad Amin.

How can an Arab leadership, represented by Chadli Bendjedid, feel proud of its Arabism, condemn Arab enemies, highlight the importance of the Palestinian problem, and yet refuse to invite the Egyptian representative in Algeria to attend the opening session of an Arab summit that discusses the Palestinian uprising?

How can the leader of an Arab country which is a member of the Arab League abandon the most fundamental principles of Arab solidarity and invite the Iranian ambassador in Algiers to attend the opening session of the summit despite the fact that Iran has been launching a criminal war against an Arab country which has been a member of the Arab League for almost 8 whole years?

How can one imagine or accept this Algerian betrayal of the most fundamental principles of Arab solidarity, reflected in the desire to invite the ambassador of a criminal and terrorist regime that has no aim but to annihilate an Arab country—Iraq—as a first step to annihilating all the other neighboring Arab countries?

How can a regime, which is supposed to belong to the Arab nation, be an ally of Iran, whose leaders have stressed their determination to continue their war against fraternal Iraq until the last Muslim Arab citizen on its soil perishes, so that the Persians can regain their control and colonization of the Arab countries from the ocean to the Gulf?

How can Chadli Bendjedid be proud of his Arabism while he allies himself with the Arabs' archest enemies; namely, the Iranian regime under Khomeyni?

How can an Arab leadership that managed to host the Arab summit in its capital abandon its principles, its people's values, and the traditions of its Arabism by supporting the Persian Iran against the Arab Iraq, and by ordering its newspapers and mass media not to publish any condemnation of the continuation of the Iranian aggression against Iraq mentioned in the speeches of the Arab kings and leaders who attended the summit?

How can the president of a state dream, or accurately imagine, that he can lead the Arab world in the absence of Egypt while seizing every opportunity to express his happiness with Khomeyni's confidence in his personality, capability, leadership, weight, and cleverness?

How can an Algerian leadership, whose country the Arabs have supported since its revolution against the French occupation and along the years that followed its independence and freedom, ally itself, against the Arabs, with the Persian enemy, which is waging a brutal war against Iraq, imagining it will achieve victory as a first step to attacking the Arab countries individually and establishing its sinful, long-awaited emperor on their rubble?

How can an Algerian leadership that claims to be Arab invite the Iranian ambassador to attend the opening session of the Arab summit conference, not feeling ashamed that it refrained from inviting the representative of the Egyptian people, who was not expecting such ingratitude, hatred, and enmity from the Algerian Government.

The Algerian leadership under Chadli Bendjedid has proven to the Arabs in general, and to Egypt in particular, that it is working against the Arabs—their interests, causes, and stands; that it allies itself with the number one enemy of the Arabs, Iran, by adopting its stands, supporting its aggression, and wishing it success in realizing its aims; that it bites the Arab hand that extended support to it in the past and licks the boots of the Persian aggressors who are lying in wait for the Arab nation and plotting to destroy it. This leadership, with which the fraternal Algerian people have been afflicted, has succeeded through its dictatorial regime in gagging the people, crushing their writers, terrorizing the opposition, and imposing on the Algerian citizens a savage and barbaric rule, which is reminiscent of the tyranny of the Middle Ages.

We have no business discussing what the Chadli Bendjedid leadership believes because we cannot impose our opinion on a government of fraternal, or even hostile, state that is far from us. This is the responsibility of the people who sumbitted to the regime of this leadership and bear the brunt of its tyranny. All we want to tell this leadership is that we oppose and reject its lies about Arabism and its commitments, as dictated by its affiliation with the Arab world. This leadership should not insist on lying while it is allying itself with the enemies of the Arabs and showing extreme happiness when it thinks that a defeat of an Arab state has become imminent.

It is time the Arab nation defined its position toward those who are affiliated with it and whose only interest is to forge alliances with the enemies of the Arabs. It is time the Arab nation demanded from Arab regimes and governments a necessary and sound position against each traitor who has managed to deceive it, albeit temporarily; against each regime conspiring against it; and against each leader whose stands confer on him the title of undisputed enemy of the Arab nation.

The Algerian regime is the best example of the regimes that are falsely affiliated with the Arabs while in fact doing their utmost to destroy what remains of Arab rights and gains. The Algerian leadership's recent positions provide us with the best proof of this. I need not jog the Arab reader's memory by recalling the Algerian regime's many shameful stands because these stands are known to all. What is new in this regard is the aim behind the Kuwaiti amir's decision—an aim which I and many others have grasped—to select for his trip to the Algiers Arab summit the same Kuwaiti plane that had been hijacked to Algiers by Iranian agents. It was said that selecting this particular plane reaffirms Kuwait's steadfastness against terrorism, its rejection of the hijackers aims, and its defiance of the planners. However, I add another significant aim for the Kuwaiti amir's trip to Algiers aboard that plane. It is well-known that the tragedy of the hijacked plane ended at Algiers airport where it was agreed to release the hostages after a long ordeal. The Algerian authorities gave themselves the right to decide the fate of the killers who hijacked the

stricken plane. And despite the passage of a long period of time since the outrageous incident, world public opinion has not known the fate of the terrorists and killers. The Algerian authorities claim that the fate of the hiajckers is an issue about which nobody has the right to question or inquire.

I wrote at that time condemning the fact that the killers got away with their crimes. I demanded that they be put on trial and receive the severest punishment to teach others a lesson. I was not alone in this demand. However, the Algerian leadership paid no attention to whatever was said or raised regarding its suspicious stand vis-a-vis the terrorist killers. Until now, not a single word indicating that the killers did not get away with their crimes has been uttered by the Algerian leadership.

When it was announced that His Royal Highness Prince Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah traveled to Algiers on board the plane that was hijacked and released at the Algerian airport, I found that this decision meant more than the hints and explanations that some people gave it. I think that this decision will raise anew the suspicion surrounding the mysterious Algerian position regarding the release of the hijacked airliner. It will raise anew the questions that we still pose on how the killers were allowed to escape without trial and punishment for their great crime.

I think that the mere landing of the plane at Algiers airport, with the Kuwaiti amir on board, constitutes a great embarrassment to the Algerian leadership, which regrettably, did not perform its duty as a state that respects legitimacy, fights terrorism, rejects blackmail, and punishes killers and criminals. Definitely, the Algerian embarrassment will increase as the entire world discovers the extent of friendship between the Algerian Arab leadership and the terrorist Iranian leadership, which is launching a relentless war against a fraternal Arab country that was—and still is—hoping that all Arab countries, including Algeria, will support it against its enemy, Iran, even if that means intimate relations—which we reject—between the two countries will be affected.

Algeria, the brotherly Arab state, is eager to have relations with all countries, especially Iran. From the Algerian regime's point of view, it is not important that Iran is waging an aggressive war against Iraq. It is important and in the interest of Iraq, as Algeria claims, that the relations between Iran and Algeria continue so that Algeria can exert its goodwill efforts to end the war that intensifies year after year. This Algerian logic could have been accepted in good faith had Algeria actually done all that it could to end the war. Sadly and regrettably, despite its Arabism that links it to Iraq, and despite its strong friendship with Iran, Algeria has been inclined toward Iran more than toward Iraq. The evidence for this is that it prevented its papers, mouthpieces, and representatives from uttering a single word that might annoy Iran's rulers or cast doubts on their victories over Iraq.

Over the past long period, the Algerian leadership managed to convince the Arab minority that it was playing a role that other Arab regimes did not have the chance to play in the attempts to end the Iraq-Iran war due to its good relations with the two warring countries. Unfortunately for the Algerian leadership, its latest stand at the Arab summit exposed this false allegation before the Arab minority that used to think in good terms of Algeria's Arab policy and stands.

It is quite un-Arab for the host nation Algeria to keep any head of the Arab states attending the conference from putting the case for Egypt's return to the Arab League. It is quite un-Arab for the Algerian president to ban any condemnation of Iran's bestial war against a sisterly Arab country. It is quite un-Arab for the Algerian government to invite all the ambassadors to attend the opening session of the Arab summit and exclude Egyptian Ambassador Husayn Ahmad Amin. It is quite un-Arab for the Algerian leadership to invite the Iranian ambassador in Algiers to attend the Arab summit's opening session.

The Algerian Government was not to be bothered with whatever dismay and consternation was caused to all the participants at the summit by the presence of the Iranian ambassador whose country's leadership's overriding concern is the destruction of a sisterly Arab state. The Algerian (Arab) leadership was taken unaware when Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in his speech, applauded Iraq and declared the League's solidarity with Iraq's recent successes against the Iranian occupation forces, prompting the Iranian ambassador to stalk out of the summit's opening session. Algerian officials were quick to follow the Iranian ambassador to talk him into returning to his seat and disregard all that the Arab League chief had said as an expression of his personal viewpoint, rather than that of the Algerian leadership's sentiments and which, therefore, must not prejudice the friendly relations between Iran and Algeria.

The Algerian leadership has unambiguously bared its true colors and inconsistencies. The Algerian Government has proven that it is hostile toward the Egyptian Government and people, and that it is unprepared to restore relations with Egypt, although it initiated the moves toward that end, having received no request, explicit or implicit, from Egypt.

Now the question arises: How much more can Egypt take from the Algerian leadership? How much longer can the Egyptian leadership remain silent over the political immaturity of the Algerian leadership, which thinks that it can thus realize the status it covets and the role of which it dreams? I think that Egypt has had enough and that now is the time for Egypt to take a clear stand toward the Algerian leadership and expose the Algerian political juvenility that has brought the relations between the two brotherly countries to such a low point. Egypt's reputation comes before any other considerations. Furthermore, Egypt's standing must not be left at

the mercy of political adolescents unfit to represent the will of their peoples. A pause with the Algerian leadership, sooner rather than later, is called for!

Libya

Tunisia's Ben Ali Postpones Visit Due to Illness

LD1506001088 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution had a telephone conversation with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of fraternal Tunisia, to inquire about his health.

JANA has learned that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's health is good and that the slight illness that afflicted President Ben Ali resulted from his efforts during the 24th African summit conference in Addis Ababa and the Arab summit conference in Algiers, and that this was the reason for postponing President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to the Great Jamahiriyah this week. JANA has learned that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to the Great Jamahiriyah will take place as soon as this slight health problem is over.

Palestine Support Conference Begins in Banghazi

SWAPO's Nujoma Arrives

MB1306142388 Dakar PANA in English 1105 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli 13 June [word indistinct]—The president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Mr Sam Nujoma, arrived in the northeast Libyan town of Banghazi on Sunday, ready for a four-day international conference in support of the Palestinian people's revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The congress, which starts on Monday and ends Thursday, is being held under the auspices of the Arab People's Congress, a pan-Arab grouping of all Arab political parties.

The chairman of the Executive Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat, who has been in Libya since Saturday, will chair the congress, which is also to be attended by delegates from African, American and European countries.

Jallud Addresses Conference

LD1306222988 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] This afternoon, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended the opening session of the International Conference of Support for the Popular Uprising in Occupied Palestine, which is organized by the International Secretariat of Solidarity With the Arab People, and its central cause, in the city of Banghazi. [silent video shows Jallud, 'Arafat, and Sam Nujoma being greeted by seated audience]

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud made a statement at the opening session of the conference in which he paid tribute to the revolution of the stone-throwing generation being witnessed by occupied Palestine. He emphasized that commitment to the gun, the people's war, and liberation of the masses is the central pillar in the confrontation with the United States, because we are confronting not only the Zionists, but U.S. imperialism and Western colonialism as well.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud also emphasized that the Zionist enemy is destined to oblivion. He said that our confidence in ourselves and in our Arab nation bodes well for the liberation of Palestine, because anything that is bad and built upon evil cannot continue—as history shows. He concluded by saying that the continuation of the armed struggle against the enemy of the Arab nation will confirm this fact. Major Jallud stressed that the Arab people's revolution in Algeria had given a living example of that, as did the struggle of the Vietnamese people against American and French imperialism.

400 Delegations Present

LD1406111788 Tripoli JANA in English 1004 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Banghazi, Al-Sayf [June] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The International Conference in Support of the People's Uprising in Occupied Palestine organized by the International Secretariat in Solidarity With the Arab People and its central cause, Palestine, started yesterday in Martyr San' al-Midihilyhg I [name as received] in Arab medical college in Banghazi.

Attending this conference are more than 400 delegations from [figure indistinct] countries representing around 250 political and people's organizations.

Present at the opening session were Messrs Yasir 'Arafat and Sam Nujoma of SWAPO.

The delegates stood one minute in silence for the souls of those who have sustained martyrom in the people's revolution waged by stone-throwing youth against the Zionist savage gangs.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

LD1406162288 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Yasir 'Arafat in connection with the fratricide at the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The various factions of the Palestinian resistance had appealed to the leader

to intervene to put an end to this fratricide. Following their appeal there was a positive response to the brother leader's intervention to put an end to this fratricide.

JANA has learned that it was agreed to put an end to the infighting in the camps concerned as of 0800 today.

USSR Position on U.S. 'Terrorism' Praised

LD1406203088 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The JANA political editor hailed the Soviet Union's resolute and deterrent stance on the policy of blackmail and terrorism. The editor, pointing to the Soviet Union's declaration rejecting the policy of official terrorism practiced by the U.S. Administration against the Great Jamahiriyah, said that this stance is indeed resolute and deters the hegemony, blackmail, and terrorism which have become the fundamental criteria underpinning the policy of the U.S. Administration.

The editor explained that this clear Soviet stand has thwarted attempts to cast doubts on the truth and utility of relations between the Soviet Union and its friends. He stressed that we consider such positions to be the perpetually appropriate response to the imperialist policy of arrogance and supremacy toward peoples which are attached to their freedom and refuse to relinquish their sovereignty. The friends of the Soviet Union are undoubtedly pleased with this stand and confident about the friendly ties with the Soviet Union, particularly since the U.S. Administration has intensified its policy of terrorism and blackmail and is resorting to deceit and distortion in order to camouflage the core of its strategy, which is hostile to mankind and based on subduing people and planting the seeds of evil in order to achieve its imperialist interests.

Remarks on Algeria by Egypt's Mubarak Criticized

LD1206181888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Jun (JANA)—The president of the Egyptian regime has attacked sisterly Algeria and President Chadli Bendjedid in a statement reported by the Egyptian Government radio.

The radio said that the Egyptian president expressed his surprise, regrets, and indignation over Algerian policy.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on these statements: It seems that according to this inverted logic, he who does not agree with treason is subjected to surprise, regret, and indignation from the Egyptian president. This is due to Algeria's pan-Arab policy, which opposes treason and supports the Arab cause, foremost of which is the cause of the Palestinian Arab people.

The editor further said that treason by the Zionist enemy and the United States is customary. He who does not go along with this custom is attacked and his policy censured. The editor stressed that the struggle of the Arab nation will be stepped up to a revolutionary level to defeat imperialist dominance in the Arab nation, and that the determination of this struggle will become, as it has been, the real custom, and the end of the imperialists and all those who associate with them will be inevitable.

Sudan

Minister Addresses Assembly on Security

JN1406121888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum June 14 (SUNA)—Defence Minister and Acting Minister of Interior General (Ret) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil [title as received] has said the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is the main threat of national security.

Khalil who was delivering a statement on security situation before the Constituent Assembly said since the foundation of the movement in 1983, Ethiopia has harboured it and then the Soviet Union and Cuba provided military training for its cadres so as to make the movement serve their strategic interests in the region.

Gen. Khalil accused certain Western countries which he did not name of assisting the movement under the guise of relief assistance.

He explained that the movement had 35 battalions comprising about 30,000-40,000 military personnel, indicating that the Armed Forces had managed to perish more than a half of them.

Gen. Khalil said the movement was currently intensifying its activities in Equatoria Region (south Sudan) and had plans to head for Torit and then Juba prior to capture the whole region which is sufficient with food and water resources.

He disclosed that about 33 rebel battalions are coming around Equatoria all of them were armed with Russian made weapons.

He said the rebels were in low morale and suffering acute shortage of food supplies.

He commended the role being played by the friendly forces which are fighting along side with Army protecting the property of the citizens and maintaining stability there.

He said the rebels were behind suspension of work at Jonglei canal project, oil prospection and work at the agricultural projects.

Khalil indicated that the government has allowed the International Red Cross to ferry relief supplies for the war affected population there. Gen. Khalil enumerated a number of external threats to national security of which he said the hostile activities in eastern border, influx of refugees to Sudan, the facilities provided by Ethiopia to the rebel movement, border disputes and the presence of

refugees in the towns. [sentence as received] As regards western Sudan borders he said the threats represented in armed robbery, violation of Sudan air space by French planes, exploitation of refugees in espionage activities.

He disclosed that Chad had begun to assist the rebel movement through a third party, he did not elaborate.

Gen. Khalil called for mobilizing political, security and military efforts to contain those threats and providing the necessary potential for the Army and security forces so as to shoulder their national responsibilities.

He said efforts should be doubled to check the effects of the recent Acropole and Sudanese club incidents stressing the Interior Ministry would work for reorganizing and listing foreigners, refugees, and voluntary organizations in the country.

Islamic Front Official on Security in South
JN1406113688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1003 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, June 14 (SUNA)—The security situation in Waw town is improving and the Armed Forces are in full control of the situation, the deputy secretary-general of the National Islamic Front (NIF) 'Ali 'Uthman stated yesterday.

'Uthman, who returned recently from a visit to Bahr al-Ghazal region, told a press conference yesterday that the absence of administrative authorities in the region had led to the deterioration of the living conditions of the town's citizens.

On the tribal disputes in Waw town, he said the (NIF) has played a key role towards starting reconciliation dialogue among them, pointing out that the tribes had expressed readiness to such dialogue.

Regarding the solutions proposed by NIF to overcome the said problem, he said his party recommended that the region's government should shift to Waw town from Khartoum and to start a relief operation for the town's citizens as well as the improving of the TV and radio transmission there.

Tunisia

Economic Protocol Concluded With Libya
LD0906224388 Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 9 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis, Al Sayf 9 [9 June] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The protocol of the Libyan Arab-Tunisian Economic Affairs Committee was concluded in Tunis yesterday by the secretary of the People's Committee for Economy and the Tunisian minister of economy Mr. Ben Mubarek.

The protocol is on promoting cooperation and complementation in planning, agriculture, fishing and tourism. An estimate programme for commodities was agreed upon for swapping them between the two countries in 1988-1991.

Priority will be given for supplying the needs of the markets in the two countries regarding the produced goods, apart from promoting coordination regarding joint exportation and reactivating joint economic chambers to invite them to hold a meeting by the end of next Nasir (July) month.

The implementation of the directives of the supreme joint committee was agreed upon to exchange information and development plans and benefiting from the training programme on statistics.

It has been also stressed to implement what has been agreed upon on cooperation in the agricultural sphere and animal and marine wealth within the purview of the joint agreement concluded in Tripoli in last Ayy al-Nar (January).

On fishing, the two sides have agreed to keep their production capacities for joint exploitation of the available wealth in their waters.

A joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian company to be established for making and repairing ships. [sentence as received]

Its office to be in Tunisia. [sentence as received] A manufacture for making the threads of nets will have its office in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

The two sides are keen on supporting the Tunisian-Libyan marine fishing company. Cooperation has to be promoted in the marine fishing according to the observed international laws. Other Maghreb countries are welcome to join in this sphere.

The two sides invite air-ways companies to increase the number of flights between Tripoli and Tunis, apart from studying the possibility of conducting flights between other local airports in the 2 countries with encouraging fare prices.

Present at the signing ceremony were the two state officials at the Ministry of National Economy, messrs al-Jinari and al-Jibali. [names as received]

The above Tunisian minister and Libyan Arab economy secretary have expressed their pleasure on the good results achieved by the two delegations stressing their resolve to promote cooperation and complementation between the two countries to realize a common market as a basic step for bringing about a common Maghreb market.

The two countries are prepared to promote cooperation in all spheres and taking every opportunity to achieve coordination and complementation to raise the production capacity to safegurd the common interests of the two sisterly countries.

AL-MUSAWWAR Interviews Tariq 'Aziz on War

JN1206082188 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 10 Jun 88 pp 64-66

["Text" of interview with Tariq 'Aziz by Sana' al-Sa'id in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] With the splendid victories scored by Iraq in both Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], can we, depending on all current objective criteria, say that the military battles have now settled in favor of Iraq? Besides, can we say that the strategic military position is now in favor of Iraq against Iran and that Iraq currently possesses the military option card against Iran?

['Aziz] If we are to give an objective assessment of wars and armed conflicts, we will be in a position to know the end results of any conflict or war before its end; namely, before the last bullet is fired. For several years, it has become clear to the objective observer that Iran is too weak to achieve its expansionist objectives in the war. Iran's insistence on continuing the war is proof that Iran sought and continues to seek to occupy Iraq and impose hegemony on it. Iran attempted to achieve this at the beginning of the war a few years ago, and it paid a dear price for this. It scored no successes in this regard even when it occupied the Al-Faw Pennisula and other parts of Iraqi territory. During that time, objective analysts correctly concluded that these limited successes, that were scored at a very high cost to Iran, cannot serve as indications of Iran's strength or of its ability to achieve a decisive military victory or realize its expansionist objectives. This was an objective conclusion reached by fair and informed political analysts before the recapture and liberation of Al-Faw.

[Al-Sa'id] What are the new elements then?

['Aziz] The prominent Iraqi victories represented by the recapture and liberation of Al-Faw and also by the expulsion of the Iranians from the area east of Basra or Al-Shalamjah lend indisputable proof to the aforementioned objective fact. Thus, the objective person would conclude that the war has been settled in favor of peace. I do not want to say that it has been settled in favor of Iraq. I would like to stress this expression, as Iraq neither initiated nor desired this war which has been imposed on it. Iraq's war effort and its jihad have been waged for the sake of establishing just peace between the two states—a peace in which each party to the conflict would respect the sovereignty of the other party as well as its freedom to choose its own political and social systems.

[Al-Sa'id] From your point of view, do you think that your numerous victories, the deteriorating situation in Iran, and the inter-rivalries between Iranian moderates and radicals will bring about an Iranian acceptance of a peaceful settlement?

['Aziz] Certainly, the latest Iraqi victories bolster tendencies in this regard and enhance peace chances. However, we must not delude ourselves into thinking that the Iranian regime will reach the correct conclusions. Khomeyni, even after the Al-Shalamjah victories, urged his aides to continue the war and said unequivocally that the war would not end at the negotiating table. This means that he has not yet reached the correct conclusion and that he continues to advocate the pursuit of his aggressive and expansionist course. The Iranian leadership has so far continued to pursue misguided and ill-advised policies. This is an indisputable fact, as the Iranian leadership continues to insist on the advocation of war. However, we must admit that the policies currently articulated and advocated by Iranian leadership no longer enjoy the effectiveness and support that they used to enjoy in the past inside Iran. Over the years of the war, this effectiveness and support witnessed a decline, and currently they are in a state of decline. But it remains to be said that the Iranian leadership is a self-conceited one. Facts have proven that the Iranian leadership does not reflect the real desires of the Iranian peoples. It is a dictatorial leadership that imposes its opinion and will on these peoples through the use of terrorism, lying, and intrigue. This eventually renders it as a leadership isolated from its peoples and working against their desires and basic interests

[Al-Sa'id] What about the call that was previously made to hold an international conference on neutral territory that will be attended by Shi'ite and Sunni ulemas to take negotiations out of the hands of the politicians. Can you accept this now?

['Aziz] Since eruption of the conflict between the two countries, we have responded to many such calls as well as to other calls. We officially accepted at the international popular peace conference that was held last month, the tutelage of the organizations in which we and Iran are members for the settlement of the conflict. By these organizations, I mean the United Nations, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement. Islamic conferences were held over the past years. An international Islamic conference was held twice in Baghdad as well as in other capitals. At these conferences, Muslim ulemas from the Shi'ite and Sunni communities discussed the conflict and expressed desire to work for peace on the basis of the holy Koran.

Iraq welcomed these conferences, and President Saddam Husayn received men of religion on many occasions, welcoming their initiatives and encouraging them to pursue their good offices. However, Iran had rejected all this. Therefore, I do not believe, from a scientific point of view, that Iran will accept the tutelage of any religious or political party.

[Al-Sa'id] Observers note that Iran has been cut down to size to a large extent. This could be because of its domestic problems, its international isolation, the military battles it has waged, or because of the difficulty it

has in carrying out military mobilization on which it greatly depended to carry out a large-scale offensive on land of which it has been speaking but which has not materialized. In your opinion, is Iran capable of launching such a large-scale offensive now?

['Aziz] From a practical standpoint, Iran is no longer capable of launching a large-scale offensive on land of the same size it used to carry out in the past. The Iranian command has been exhausted, the Iranian people's morale has been sapped and their potentialities depleted in this war. Although Iran still has armed forces, it can only mount small and limited operations here and there. However, these operations will not affect the current balance of power.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your assessment of the stand of the two giants on the Iraq-Iran war, and are you worried about French-Iranian rapprochement in light of the resumption and normalization of relations?

['Aziz] With respect to French-Iranian rapprochement, I would like to say that in principle, we have no objection to people having normal ties with Iran. We would have liked to have normal ties with Iran ourselves that are based on the principles I mentioned. In principle, we have no objection if a country, even if it is friendly, establishes relations with Iran. But, experience taught us that establishment of ties with Iran or extension of ties to include closer political involvement, wider trade, or even military deals could not serve the cause of peace. This could harm peace not only with regard to the Iraq-Iran conflict, but in the whole region. Some countries say that they wish to establish peace. They also say that they wish to establish stability in the Gulf and the Middle East region. This is good. But when these countries deal with Iran in trade on a large scale, they help prolong the war and endanger security and stability in the region. This means that there is a contradiction between deeds and declared intentions. Therefore, we call on countries, and I do not mean only France, not to rush in establishing wide relations with Iran, whether in the political, trade, or military fields. By doing so, they will not be serving the cause of peace but will be encouraging this arrogant, aggressor, and saboteur regime to press ahead with its policies. We say this frankly to our French friends and without any hesitation.

[Al-Sa'id] Doesn't this mean that you are concerned?

['Aziz] No, it does not mean that we are concerned about the establishment of relations. But we also have not concealed our opinion on this subject. We conveyed this opinion to the French officials in the past and we are repeating it today. As far as the two superpowers' position is concerned, we believe that the United States and the USSR want an end to this war. They have expressed this stand for a long time, at least during the past 5 years, and in their adoption of Resolution 598. This resolution would not have been adopted without their stand, approval, and encouragement. However, the two powers differ in their approach and in the steps which must follow the adoption of Resolution 598. Following adoption of this resolution, the United States emphasized the need to move to the next phase of imposing sanctions on Iran for not accepting the resolution. For it is obvious that Iran has not accepted the resolution. In fact, the USSR does not say that Iran has accepted the resolution. On several occasions, Soviet officials have affirmed that Iran will not accept the resolution. While they admit this fact, they are not enthusiastic about the next step which is to impose sanctions and an arms embargo on Iran and to use that as an element of pressure on Iran to make it accept Resolution 598. Thus, we differ in our assessment with the USSR, although we appreciate its basic stand calling for an end to the war and we cherish Iraqi-Soviet and Arab-Soviet friendship and recognize its importance. Still, we cannot agree with the USSR in this assessment.

[Al-Sa'id] Some Soviet officials are saying that a resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran would be weaker than Resolution 598. Therefore, there is an inclination now to pass a new resolution. Do you accept this logic?

['Aziz] Never. We cannot possibly agree to another resolution. Resolution 598 must remain the basis for a settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict. If this idea about some party seeking to obtain a new resolution is ever raised—although I do not have any firm information on this subject—it is bound to fail. There are attempts to rephrase Resolution 598 to make it realistic, but not to issue a new resolution. The purpose of the attempts is not to issue a new resolution, but to carry out the secretary general's plan to rearrange the priorities in Resolution 598. In commenting on this, I say: Yes, there are such attempts and the USSR may or may not have a role in them. The attempts are being made in the UN lobbies. The UN General Secretariat has entertained such ideas to a certain degree. We did not agree to these trends. In fact, we resisted them, because we believe that they are a wrong basis and cannot lead to peace, regardless of the good or bad intentions behind them. So I am not discussing these intentions, but the results of such trends which, I believe, would only prolong the state of war, and maintain the threat to security and stability in the region. Therefore, we do not agree to that.

[Al-Sa'id] Is this the upshot of what you communicated to all the parties at the time?

['Aziz]From the beginning, we told all the big powers and the UN secretary general even before the issuance of Resolution 598 that Iraq will not accept a formula similar to what happened in the Arab-Israeli conflict. I told them at the time that Iraq does not want another Resolution 242 and will not accept such a state of affairs. We have said this in the past and we reaffirmed it on many occasions. I also said this in two major capitals when Iran had been carrying out a large-scale offensive against Basra. At the time, observers and analysts had many apprehensions with respect to Iraq's position. I

used to say in these two capitals that we do not want only a cease-fire decision—we do not want a partial settlement or a method that will tackle the issue without leading to a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace—we want a comprehensive solution, and we are ready to wait 1, 2, or 3 months. They asked me at the time: But what about Basra, is Basra being threatened? I told them: this is not your concern. Basra is an Iraqi city and we are capable of defending it. Even if Basra is occupied, and it will never be occupied, we will never accept such solutions. I also told them that Iraq possesses the necessary determination and willpower to make it fight to regain its territory and liberate it, and thus make comprehensive and lasting peace possible.

Now that what we said has been confirmed—and after what we used to affirm in early 1987 has become a reality through our success in repulsing the large-scale offensive against Basra and in inflicting heavy losses on Iran, and after moving to the stage of liberating the land—we cannot permit the dissemination of such talk and methods. We will wait to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace if there is a need to wait.

[Al-Sa'id] Even 1 year after the issuance of Resolution 598 and even if nothing has been done yet to issue a resolution on an arms embargo?

['Aziz] Yes. Waiting for comprehensive and lasting peace is better than entering into false peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Although Iran rejects Resolution 598, the UN secretary general and some UN Security Council members resort to a strange interpretation saying that Iran's acceptance of the technical dialogue on the basis of the UN secretary general's plan implicitly means that Iran accepts Resolution 598. Is this not logical unless they want to give Iran the opportunity to dampen stands and freeze the resolution?

['Aziz] I am not leveling accusations against any party. We respect the interpretations of the UN Secretariat General or of some countries. But at the same time, we state our point of view frankly without any hesitation or placation. We have already stated that this method will not lead to peace. It will not convince Iran to accept Resolution 598. On the contrary, it has encouraged Iran to prolong the war and enables it to avoid sanctions. The proposals have proved their uselessness. Without frank, declared, documented, and unconditional Iranian acceptance of Resolution 598, there cannot be, from the practical point of view, any talks or dialogue on the implementation of Resolution 598.

[Al-Sa'id] Is this your position now?

['Aziz] Yes. This is our position and it has been communicated.

[Al-Sa'id] This means you will not talk to Perez de Cuellar?

['Aziz] No, we will talk with Perez de Cuellar whenever he wants. There is a difference between talking with Perez de Cuellar and talking with others. But there are proposals which say: Come let us talk with the Iranians on how to apply the resolution without setting the condition of a frank Iranian acceptance [of Resolution 598]. And we say to them: This is useless and unacceptable. But if the secretary general wants to talk with us, he is most welcome.

[Al-Sa'id] Why did you oppose the idea of forming a committee to determine who started the war?

['Aziz] We accepted Paragraph (6) of Resolution 598 when we approved that resolution. We do not object to the implementation of this paragraph as long as it is in accordance with the normal sequence of the paragraphs.

[Al-Sa'id] Why do you object to starting with the committee to determine the party that started the war? Perhaps, if you go back to the history of the dispute you will find that Iraq was the one that called for arbitration by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, or the ICO over Iranian allegations concerning responsibility for the conflict. We do not fear that. We have made that clear and affirmed it at the time. But if we are engaged in a peace process to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran, then peace can only be achieved by implementing Resolution 598 as it stands. Peace is not achieved by starting with Paragraph (6) of the resolution. This is an illusion. It means involving the United Nations, Iraq, and Iran in a vicious circle which will neither have a beginning nor an end. This will not serve peace in any way. We know what the Iranians have in mind. Therefore, we cannot encourage the United Nations to get involved in an Iranian game or fall into an Iranian trap which will only lead to continuation of the war. We have endured the war for 8 years. So there is no reason why we cannot wait for 1 or 2 months, and even a bit longer, until circumstances become opportune for a real peace process.

[Al-Sa'id] What will Iraq do on 20 July which will be the first anniversary of UN Resolution 598?

['Aziz] We will continue our legitimate defense of our sovereignty and country. The world and the Security Council are bound to reach the right conclusions.

[Al-Sa'id] But the Security Council is behaving as though it is in collusion with Iran to surround Iraq and freeze the resolution. The best proof of this is their excuse that sufficient time must be given to diplomatic talks and efforts. Is it inconceivable for anything to happen, unless they intend to freeze the resolution?

['Aziz] At any rate, the intentions behind this approach are bound to come out sooner or later. So let us not rush things.

[Al-Sa'id] Amid the current missile race in the region, there are now missiles in Israel, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. Iraq also has long-range missiles which have consolidated its position. I wonder, are the Iraqi missiles to deter Iran, or are they to be used against other parties as well in the region?

['Aziz] Any country in the world purchases or produces weapons in order to defend itself against outside threats. Presently, Iraq is facing a threat from Iran. Therefore, we are using our weapons, including the missiles, to face this threat. If another party threatens us, then we will not hesitate to defend ourselves with the weapons we possess.

[Al-Sa'id] The proliferation of long-range missiles in the region could increase the state of instability. Do you see that, or do you think that the mutual possession of a deterrent force would maintain a balance of power and increase stability?

['Aziz] I agree with the second opinion that the proliferation of long-range missiles would enhance stability in the region. There came a time in the region when the parties threatening the Arab nation possessed missiles that reached our Arab capitals, including Baghdad, while we possessed nothing to match them. Iran used to bomb Baghdad with missiles while we did not possess a deterrent weapon. Then came the Al-Husayn and Al-'Abbas missiles as a balancing factor and a deterrent. Israel has missiles and weapons that can reach all Arab capitals. Therefore, when Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt or any other Arab state possesses missiles, this is bound to create a balance and a deterrence against the adventurers and aggressors in Tel Aviv and Tehran.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people are spreading fears that the ordinary warheads of the long-range missiles you have can, today or in the future, be replaced by chemical if not nuclear warheads. I wonder, does Iraq intend to use such warheads?

['Aziz] All I can say in reply to your question is that this will not arise as far as Iraq is concerned?

[Al-Sa'id] Even if Iran used such warheads?

['Aziz] I believe the answer I gave still stands in all cases.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the attitude toward the Kurds? Are they, as some western observers claim, an enormous element of pressure on Iraq, especially with the growing alliances between Iran and the Kurds against Iraq?

['Aziz] The Kurds are not an element of pressure on Iraq, because the rebels are no more than a handful of Kurdish politicians who have made a profession of mutiny such as Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani. They are specialized in obtaining funds from Iran, Syria, and other quarters. These people do not want to acknowledge the facts that have been established in their country, Iraq; namely, that Iraq has indeed solved the Kurdish question peacefully and democratically and that the overwhelming majority of the Kurdish people accepts this solution, lives within a single homeland and under the existing regime in Iraq, and contributes effectively to it. This rebellious faction does not want to recognize that. It is exploiting the war circumstances and Iran's existence on the other side of the border as well as Iran's expansionist designs to continue its acts of sabotage. This faction does not have any real popular support among the Kurds in Iraq. It has no future also. Its end will come with the end of the war as was the case with the Barzani mutiny. His mutiny ended on the very day the March 1975 agreement was signed. On that day the mutiny collapsed like a house of cards. The Kurdish rebels have linked themselves to the Khomeyni program, a program which is bound to fail and their fate will be the same.

[Al-Sa'id] With respect to the Iraqi nuclear energy program, I wonder what has happened to the nuclear plant that Israel raided in 1981. Has it been rebuilt?

['Aziz] No. France did not rebuild it.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that the nuclear program in Iraq has been frozen for some time?

['Aziz] There is nothing new in this sphere.

[Al-Sa'id] With respect to Iraqi-Arab relations, I wonder what significance Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi's forthcoming visit to Iraq has?

['Aziz] Iraqi-Egyptian relations are fraternal and close relations and cover many fields. We have agreed to discuss ways in which to organize our relationship and develop it to a high level; namely, to the level of heads of governments. This is an indication of the high level of bilateral relations. We welcome the Egyptian prime minister and we believe that his visit will greatly help to promote our fraternal bilateral relations.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the file on Iraqi-Syrian relations. Has the road been completely blocked in front of the reconciliation with Syria?

['Aziz] The issue is in Syria's hands. If it insists on maintaining its alliance with Iran, then we cannot have normal relations with it as should normally exist between any two Arab countries. But if Syria gives up this alliance and abides by words and deeds of the Amman summit resolutions, then there will be no obstacle to the establishment of normal relations between the two countries. However, the signs indicate that the Syrian-Iranian alliance still exists. The latest manifestation is what is taking place in Lebanon.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Libya and the level of relations with it?

['Aziz] Relations between us and Libya are normal.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you have any sensitivities toward Sudan, particularly following Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's attempts to open channels of communication with Iran, which he justified at the time by saying that they are to mediate between Iraq and Iran and to end the war?

['Aziz] Relations between Iraq and Sudan are good. As for what has been said about mediation between Iraq and Iran, we asked no one to undertake such mediation. In our opinion, there is no objective basis for it. If someone insists on the idea of mediation as an excuse for establishing relations with Iran, then we do not share his stand.

Information Minister on Liberation of Territory

JN1406183888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jun (INA)—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has stated that the traverses the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces liberated in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operation are part of the territories the criminal invaders had occupied when they occupied Halabjah last March.

In a statement to INA this evening, the Iraqi minister said that these territories and mountainous traverses are important strategic locations with respect to the Iraqi army's future operations.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Spokesman on Losses

JN1406160588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jun (WAKH)—A high-ranking Iraqi military official has announced that the areas that were attacked yesterday are under control of the Iraqi forces and Iranian forces were pushed beyond the international borders.

'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, the Iraqi military spokesman, said that the battle has been settled in favor of Iraq and added that realities on the ground disprove the Iranian allegations.

Yesterday, Iraq announced that its forces had crushed the Iranian offensive, which targetted the Kut al-Sawadi and Bubiyan border posts east of Al-Basrah after battles that lasted only 8 hours [as received].

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad, Muhsin described the victory claimed by Iran as "one intended for merely local consumption" and added: The Iranians must say frankly what they achieved. We invite them as well as neutral journalists to visit the same sites mentioned in Iranian statements.

Muhsin estimated that Iraq's losses in manpower were in the hundreds and added: They were very limited because of adherence to the plan, skilled leadership, high morale, and supremacy in armament and numbers. He added: The Iranians are not maintaining a presence in Bubiyan, Kut al-Sawadi, or east of Fish Lake. The situation has been fully settled in favor of Iraq in the border areas. Iran claimed that it inflicted on Iraq human losses that exceeded 10,000 casualties.

In reply to a question from the correspondent, Muhsin said: Full tranquility has prevailed in the areas east of Al-Basrah since 1900 [1500 GMT] yesterday and there has been no combat activity as of noon today.

Iraq liberated these areas following a sweeping attack launched by forces affiliated to the Presidential Guard Force and the III Army Corps on 25 May. The aforementioned attack resulted in the expulsion of Iranian forces outside the international borders.

'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, who is also director of the Political Guidance Department at the Ministry of Defense, spoke about losses sustained by Iran following its adventure yesterday and said: They are very grave. Hundreds of Iranians were taken prisoner. Furthermore, they were pushed to areas farther away from where they had been stationed before the beginning of their latest offensive.

Communique No 3,214

JN1406184088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1549 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,214 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Right always triumphs, while wrong is defeated in all fields and areas. We Iraqis who have been endowed with the great Saddam Husayn so that he can lead us through freedom routes to the beaches of progress, have waged this war only to defend our rights regarding our territory and territorial waters, to protect our sovereignty, and to choose the soundest road to build a life. As for the Khomeyniite enemies, despite the great charlatanism being displayed, they have failed to forward one convincing reason justifying their continuation of this war. All of their justifications served as condemnations of their criminal course and provided them with not even an iota of legitimacy. As we are vindicating the right which is ours, Almighty God granted us with victory in Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and enabled us to defeat the enemy's offensive yesterday, inflicting on it grave losses. With right on our side, God has made us triumph today in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operation through which our forces carried out an offensive against some border traverses ['awarid] in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate which the enemy had been exploiting.

The valiant Al-Mustafa forces and the support forces affiliated to them, the Al-Mansur Forces and the support forces affiliated to them, the Al-Qa'qa' and the support forces affiliated to them, while repeating: Muhammad is the Prophet of God; and those who are with him are strong against the Unbelievers, (but) Compassionate amongst each other. [Koranic verse], penetrating the enemy's fortified defenses, wiping out the enemy rogues en masse, and capturing many of them. They also demolished the enemies' positions over their heads using all classes of forces beginning with the Air Forces, the Army helicopter gunship force, the artillery corps, the armor corps, and ending with the courageous commandos and infantrymen. Besides, they managed to climb the peaks of glory and storm enemy positions, turning them into graves, destroying their weapons, and seizing some of these weapons.

The battle witnessed an unprecedented cooperation among the clases of forces. Furthermore, it witnessed the courage of the Iraqi soldier, his great performance, as well as the skill of his field command. The destructive power of all of our classes of forces has been demonstrated on the battleground. We are here referring to our heroic Air Force, the daring Army helicopter gunships, our valiant artillery, our brave armor, and the heroic commandos and infantrymen who climbed to the peaks of glory. They proceded to enemy positions with intense fire until the strategic heights overlooking the theater of operations in this area were completely purged of enemy scoundrels. These heights are the following:

1. The (Kucvar 2152) traverse

2. (Kurdi Halikan 1891) traverse

3. The (Kumidal 2491) traverse

4. The (Baneh Barik 2457) traverse

5. The (Shaykh Muhammad 2243) traverse

These are the traverses which the agent Rafsanjani said possess a very significant strategic dimension. Rafsanjani added that the party that gains control over these traverses will have the final say in this region.

Thus, the enemies have been defeated in the Muhammad Rasul Allah battle, just as they were defeated in the eternal Ramadan Mubarak battle and the glorious Tawakalna 'Alallah battle. Thus, our corps prove that they, without exception, can forge miracles and possess the ability to defeat evil and defend the homeland. Our I Army Corps remains the one that has the resolve and that upholds Iraq's banner in its area of operations, just as any Iraqi corps. Glory to you, O men of the leader Saddam Husayn, and to you, O heroes of the I Army Corps—commanders, officers, and other ranks. You have wrestled with the enemies and fought them fiercely. God was with you. Hence, victory was a decoration given to you. The Iraqi people as well as the Arab nation are proud of you. Long live our great people and long live our leader, who is supported by the victories granted by God; namely, the beloved Saddam Husayn! May our valiant Armed Forces live! May your banner remain lofty with victory, you, O beloved Iraq!

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 June 1988

Communique No 3,215

JN1406165888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,215 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following are the results of our valiant Armed Forces' activities for last night and today.

1. With daring attacks and overwhelming superiority, our daring Air Force aircraft carried out 130 combat missions today, during which they inflicted on the Khomeyniites further losses in life, weapons, and military hardware. Our aircraft also raided the Ahvaz military airport at 1315 [0915 GMT] today, scoring a successful hit against its facilities, and leaving columns of smoke billowing from them. After carrying out all their duties, all our aircraft safely returned to base under God's protection and guidance.

2. The noble knights of the helicopter gunships carried out 142 combat sorties today, during which they destroyed enemy positions, set enemy equipment and military hardware on fire, and killed many enemy rogues. They safely returned with their helicopters to base under God's protection.

3. Eleven rogues were killed; one 106-mm gun, four vehicles, and two ammunition dumps were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector; and one infantry position and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar forces.

4. Four personnel were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector, and the enemy's engineering work was obstructed and paralyzed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 June 1988

Rabin Convoy Attacked With Firebombs in Ramallah
JN1406190188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] At noon today the heroic young men used Molotov cocktails to attack the military convoy which was escorting terrorist Rabin during his tour of Ramallah. Several military vehicles which were escorting him were destroyed.

India Interested in Increased Energy Cooperation
TA1506105688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] India wants to increase cooperation with Israel in the energy sphere. This was announced by the Indian prime ministers adviser on energy affairs, who is attending the international seminar currently under way in Qiryat 'Anavim. In a meeting with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal, the guest said that his country is interested in cooperation with Israel in the sphere of solar energy, wind power, and new refinement techniques. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that Minister Shahal invited scientists from India to Israel to discuss these matters.

SFRY Delegation Confirms El Al To Begin Flights
TA1506104588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] El Al will begin direct flights to Yugoslavia in October or November. A Yugoslav delegation has arrived in Israel with the confirmation. Israel has made clear that the flights between the two countries must be on a reciprocal basis.

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motion on Awad
TA1506104788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The Knesset has defeated a no-confidence motion submitted by the Progressive List for Peace following Mubarak Awad's deportation. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the motion was defeated by a majority of 19 Likud, Tehiya, and Morasha Knesset members, versus 12 left-wing Knesset members. Deputy Minister Roni Milo countered the no-confidence motion on behalf of the government, saying that Mubarak Awad had disrupted public order and state security, supported the PLO's terrorist activities, and maintained contacts with PLO members. The decision to expel him was correct, Milo added.

Voluntary Body Urged To Aid Military Legal System
TA1506050388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Speaking at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a senior attorney with the Military Judge Advocate's office said that the grave legal situation in the territories is causing much concern. He said that the authorities cannot cope with the mass arrests and with incidents of deviant behavior by soldiers. Our English news correspondent Jack Katzenell reports that several legal experts who were present at the seminar proposed the establishment of a volunteer body to aid the military legal system.

Bar-Lev Gives Priority to 'Anti-Arson Struggle'
TA1406184188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] There have been 333 arsons throughout Israel over the last 6 months; 125 of them have apparently had a nationalist background. This was announced today by Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev. According to him the police are holding 39 suspects, 19 of whom have confessed to the charges against them.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the police affairs minister announced that next Wednesday, 22 June, a special alert will be declared in view of the call in the PLO's leaflet no 19 to destroy agricultural property and set forests on fire on this day. The fire squads will be reinforced by Civil Defense people who are in charge of putting out fires in times of emergency.

Our correspondent in the Knesset Amnon Nadav adds that according to the police affairs minister the police have given priority to the anti-arson struggle in the intelligence, investigation, and operation spheres. An order was issued to the police for the summer months, whereby each station will allocate a van for patrols in places where a danger of arson exists. Patrols, ambushes, and surveillance activity, including aerial surveillance, will also be launched.

Rabin Willing To Continue Meeting Palestinians
TA1406185388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The Judaea and Samaria schools will be closed for the next 2 days at the Civilian Administration's order due to the residents' intention to stage a school strike. The school strike was planned for tomorrow in the framework of the Day of the Student in the territories. A military source told our correspondent that due to disturbances, the defense establishment will reconsider whether schools in several places should have been reopened.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin toured the Ramallah district today. He expressed support for Mubarak Awad's deportation from Israel and noted he is willing to meet with personages from the territories who are identified with the PLO, provided they are not declared PLO members. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Shlonsky] Minister Rabin says today he will continue his meetings with notables from the territories, including elements who are identified with the PLO.

[Rabin] I want to meet with prominent personages from various walks of life, including the medicine and trade spheres, as well as elements whose views are identical with those of the PLO and Islamic Mujama' elements in Gaza. I have no reason not to meet with any residents who live in the territories since I represent the government for them.

[Shlonsky] Does this apply to PLO members as well?

[Rabin] As long as they are not people who were proven to participate in PLO activity—the PLO is an outlawed organization here—as long as it is not proven that they are PLO members, I can talk with them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

West Bank Academics Cancel Meeting With Rabin

TA1506092988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] A planned meeting Monday between Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and leading academicians from the West Bank was cancelled after the latter turned down the invitation, Palestinian academic sources said yesterday.

The Defence Ministry refused to comment on the report.

The cancellation came amid mounting condemnation, by nationalist activists, of other Palestinians who have met Rabin in recent weeks.

The invitees were Dr. Jabi Baramaki, acting president of Bi'r Zayt University, Dr. Nabil Jabari, chairman of the board of trustees of Hebron University, and Dr. Nafis Nazzal, a former professor at Bi'r Zayt. Jabari was released last month from jail after 68 days in administrative detention.

Monday's meeting was to have been part of a series of discussions Rabin has held with leading Palestinians. He has described the meetings as a renewal of dialogue as the violence of the uprising slackens off.

However, participants in the meetings have come in for heavy criticism from nationalist activists. Leaflet number 19 of the "unified national leadership of the uprising" called the participants "collaborators" who violated the "national will." It said the meetings were designed to foster an alternative Palestinian leadership to the PLO. [passage omitted]

Rabin has met with supporters of both the PLO and Jordan, as well as Islamic activists. According to informed Palestinian sources, a meeting two weeks ago with a group from Gaza included Ibrahim Yazuri, head of the Mujama' movement, which is sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood, and Zuhayr al-Rayyis.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

W. Bank Schools Ordered Closed

TA1406170588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The Military Government in Judaea and Samaria has decided to close all schools in the region for 2 days starting Wednesday. The action was taken because studies have been disrupted over the past few days in several schools: students participated in strikes and took an active part in disturbances.

Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, told our correspondent Moti Amir that the closure affected 1,200 schools and 300,000 children.

Fire Bombs in Tulkarm, Gaza

TA1406182688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The increasing number of incidents in the territories has led the Civil Administration to close all schools in Judaea and Samaria for 2 days. We have more from reporter Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] Arab sources say a 21-year-old Tulkarm man was injured during an army chase of rioting youngsters. A fire bomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle in Al-Birah. There were no injuries.

In Ramallah, youngsters returning from school blocked several streets in the downtown district. [passage omitted] Arab sources in Ramallah said the stone blockades and tire burnings came just after 12 noon to warn store owners to shut their businesses in observance of Palestinian leaflets. In this case, soldiers shot rubber bullets at some of the rioting youngsters. Nobody was reported injured. [passage omitted] [end recording]

A fire bomb was thrown at an army patrol in the Faris market in Gaza City this afternoon. Reporter Steve Rodan quotes military sources as saying the fire bomb did not ignite and nobody was injured. Soldiers ran after an Arab thought to have thrown the fire bomb. He was apprehended and brought in for investigation.

Gaza Printing Houses Reopen

TA1406201588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip has recently begun renewing the licenses of printing houses. Most of them were closed about 2 and 1/2 months ago to prevent the printing of hostile material and for fear that some of the leaflets of the unified national command of

the uprising in the territories were printed there. The conditions for the renewal of licenses oblige every printing house director to submit everything to military censorship prior to printing.

2 Officers Injured Near Hebron

TA1506044188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The military court in Nabulus has indicted several residents of the refugee camp of 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'. The court claims that a gun was found in the possession of some residents of the camp, who accidentally fired the weapon, killing a Palestinian aged 80. The residents had blamed army soldiers for the death of the elderly man. The Voice of Israel reporter says the camp residents' version of the death was published by the media despite an army denial of its involvement in the killing.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night in the village of Bayt Immar near Hebron, injuring two army officers who were patrolling the area in their vehicle. A curfew was imposed on the village as security forces carried out searches.

Molotov Cocktail Near Jericho

TA1506100488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] It has just been reported that another Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at a military vehicle. This incident, in which no casualties were involved, took place in the vicinity of Jericho. The vehicle was slightly damaged. The IDF has made several arrests. It will be remembered that two IDF officers were wounded in a Molotov cocktail explosion near Hebron.

W. Bank Bus Companies Closed

TA1506113488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration today temporarily closed three bus companies in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem. The companies will remain closed for a week. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that these companies were closed because they did not honor the exclusive concession conditions on certain lines by not servicing them during transportation strikes.

Commercial Strike 15 Jun

TA1506105188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] There is a general commercial strike in the Gaza Strip today. All shops and businesses are closed, but Gaza laborers left for work in Israel this morning. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the curfew on the Al-Burayj refugee camp has been continuing for over a week now. A commercial strike is also in effect in Judaea and Samaria today, and public transportation is also at a standstill.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 15 June adds that "Today's strike in Judaea and Samaria is in solidarity with the youths detained as a result of the uprising. Businesses are closed down in all regions, and only several markets and temporary stalls are open. Some of the workers left for work in Israel despite the strike. The Ramallah and Nabulus municipalities are strikebound, as is public transportation."]

Molotov Cocktail in Gaza

TA1506135988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF unit in the center of Gaza today. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. The IDF conducted searches in the area. This is reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

IDF Reports Detainee Data

TA1506093788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—Some 2,500 Palastinians are currently being held under administrative detention, 950 of whom have appealed their sentencing, IDF Judge Advocate General Tat Aluf [Brigadier General] Amnon Strassnoff said yesterday.

Ninety of the 950 appeals have been reviewed so far, Strassnoff said, and in 15 cases the sentence was either cancelled or shortened.

Since the Palestinian uprising in the territories began six months ago, the military police have launched investigations into 350 incidents there, including some 110 incidents which resulted in the death of one or more demonstrators.

Of the 350 investigations, the military police have finished work on some 230, and have passed their findings on to Strassnoff's office. To date, the office has dealt with some 100 files, which have resulted in 12 court martials and 15 disciplinary trials. Strassnoff estimated that there had been several dozen disciplinary hearings presided over by unit commanders. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 June in a page 2 report on Gen Strassnoff's remarks adds: "As of yesterday, procedures concerning administrative detentions have been altered. According to the new procedures, a military judge will hear the detainees' appeals, while in the past these were decided by an advisory committee. The decision to alter the procedure was made by the

defense minister and the chief of staff. The military judge is currently holding proceedings in the Qezi'ot detention facility. The significance of the change lies in the fact that the judge's ruling regarding administrative detention will be binding on IDF commanders, who will not be in a position to question the judge's decision. The military judge advocate pointed out that this step has increased the legal authorities' supervision over administrative detentions."]

Casualty Toll Updated

TA1506133188 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 15 Jun 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] The intifada [uprising] fatality count is becoming increasingly more complicated.

According to figures issued by the IDF spokesman 2 weeks ago, and the number of fatalities reported in recent weeks, the number of dead stands at 215.

Now, after initiating an internal check, the IDF states that the number of dead is only 155. This figure refers only to fatalities proven to have been caused by IDF soldiers.

Palestinian sources, in contrast, reported 279 dead according to the following breakdown:
—187 killed by IDF fire.
—55 killed by inhaling poisonous gases.
—17 killed by fatal blows and electrocution.
—20 dead in unclear circumstances.

Extra Defense Budget Requested Due to Unrest

TA1206114788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The Defense Ministry has asked the Finance Ministry for a 250-million shekel supplementary budget for 1988. It is meant to cover expenses originating from the IDF's activity in curbing the intifada [uprising] in the territories.

This request was presented to the Finance Ministry in a series of meetings that David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general, and Brigadier General Re'uven Hershko, the chief of staff's economic adviser [title as published], held with senior Finance Ministry officials. The Treasury turned down the request for an addition to the defense budget. As a result, a meeting was held between the defense and finance ministers.

Yitzhaq Rabin explained to Moshe Nisim that unless a supplementary budget is provided, the ministry would have no funds to finance activities in the territories. Consequently, the IDF's procurement plans may have to be cut down. Rabin stressed that in the plans made by the IDF and the Defense Ministry, the entire budget is designated for specific purposes. As no reserves are available, any extra expense would affect one of these areas. For the present Nisim does not seem inclined to respond favorably. If the two fail to reach an agreement Rabin will raise the issue before the cabinet.

Defense Ministry calculations show that the extra spending on activities in the territories would amount to some 420 million shekels by the end of the current fiscal year (on 31 March 1989).

Despite these computations, Rabin is not asking for the full sum because the uprising incidents could help save many training days. IDF units that were scheduled for training periods this year will be sent to serve in the territories. A savings of between $50 and $60 million is achieved by this because deploying units in the territories is cheaper than paying for training days.

Another reason why the defense minister is refraining from demanding the full 420 million shekels is the system of financial arrangements that prevails between the National Security Institute and the Defense Ministry regarding payment for reserve duty days. According to the prevailing practice, the defense establishment is allocated a given number of reserve duty days per year in advance. The cost of 1 such day when not used, namely when the defense establishment can do without it, is transferred to the defense budget. This increases the defense establishment's motivation to cut down on reserve duty days.

In 1988 the defense establishment was allotted some 10 million reserve duty days. The IDF was planning on saving a large number of these days, thereby increasing its budget. The events in the territories, however, have forestalled this plan so that it now seems that the IDF may even have to add reserve duty days. Yet even after using the additional reserve duty days the IDF would still utilize only some 9.75 million reserve duty days, less than the original allocation. That is why the defense minister is not asking for an extra budget for the reserve soldiers who are scheduled to serve in the territories.

Only 250 Gazans Register for Pilgrimage to Mecca

TA1306132488 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Jun 88 p 4

[Text] Only some 250 Gaza Strip residents registered this year for pilgrimage to Mecca, as opposed to thousands who carried out the precept of hajj last year.

Registration for pilgrimage to Mecca to fulfill this precept ended yesterday in the Interior Ministry and Civilian Administration offices, and very few have registered this year. The small figure is attributed to the results of the intifada [uprising], which decreased the financial means of Gaza Strip residents. It is also attributed to

residents' fear of various demands made by the Civilian Administration that they meet certain commitments and pay back debts in return for the permit to go to Mecca.

Jersusalem Arab Press Views Algiers Resolutions

'Strongest Momentum' for Peace

TA1406135588 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Jun 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A Real Peace Opportunity"]

[Text] The political resolutions adopted at the the Algiers summit concerning the Palestinian problem affirmed the Arab desire to continue the political and diplomatic efforts aimed at finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab leaders left all doors to peace efforts open, particularly since they did not announce their rejection of Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative.

Although the Arab decision makers and statesmen adopted a policy of not burning bridges, they affirmed to the world that peace cannot be achieved except by ensuring the security, stability, and rights of all the region's peoples, including the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Syria and Jordan asked the U.S. secretary of state to continue his peace efforts. On the other hand, the PLO, through the head of its political department, Faruq Qaddumi, announced its recognition of a change in the U.S. position, though it is still limited and insufficient.

Thus the Arab world unequivocally proclaimed a unified political strategy for establishing peace in the region through negotiations by means of an active international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the great powers and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

The United States and the Soviet Union affirmed their resolve to continue exerting joint political efforts to advance the peace process in the region. This became very clear following the conclusion of the Moscow summit and in the wake of the meeting in New York several days ago between the Soviet foreign minister and U.S. secretary of state. During a rare meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet minister affirmed his country's readiness to restore diplomatic relations with Israel as soon as the international conference is convened.

As to the situation in Israel, the existing differences between the Labor Party and the Likud over the concept of the international conference and the principle of land in return for peace have made it almost impossible to draw up a clear and specific Israeli position on the peace efforts. Despite what has been said about the coming stage and about the need to await the results of the U.S. presidential elections and the Israeli Knesset elections, the climate of international reconciliation, as well as the desire of the great majority of the world's countries to close the file of the Arab-Israeli conflict, provide the strongest momentum ever for establishing peace in the region.

New Political 'Reality' Seen

TA1406164488 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Israel's Leaders and the Vicious Circle"]

[Text] The resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit that ended its work in Algiers last Thursday evening aroused the ire of Israel's leaders. They immediately showed their prejudice toward these resolutions without bothering to study their content or think about their dimensions.

The Israeli position is counter to that of the United States, Israel's strategic ally. The U.S. State Department, through the official U.S. spokesman, expressed Washington's satisfaction with the results of the Arab summit. The U.S. spokesman noted that the summit resolutions did not close the door to the "Shultz initiative," moreover, it left the door open to the possible formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in potential Middle East peace talks

Commenting on the decisions of the "uprising summit," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his hope that the decisions of the Arab summit in Algiers will be "soon forgotten." He added: All the Algiers resolutions about the uprising were expected beforehand, and I hope that they will be quickly forgotten as was the case with most results of the recent Amman summit at the end of 1987.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described the decisions of the Algiers summit as being "childish" and "illogical," and said: They are mere rhetoric that do not commit Israel to anything.

In reality what disturbs and upsets the Israeli leadership is the unified Arab action and unity of expression whose foundations were laid at the "uprising summit." This has the potential of forging real prospects of a comprehensive and just peace that ensures to all the region's peoples the peace and security we have always dreamed about.

In addition to this, the "uprising summit" succeeded in clearing the Arab climate and developing Arab solidarity following long years of discord and internal differences. Evidently the question here is: Does Israel fear this tendency?

Now, however, in light of the "uprising summit" resolutions, we can say that the Middle East peace process has been consolidated and that the way is clear to activate efforts aimed at achieving a just, firm, and lasting peace in the region.

It is therefore incumbent on the Israeli leadership to reassess its calculations and reach the conclusion that Israel cannot have peace and keep land at the same time. It should be acknowledged that the Palestinians have a right to this land, a legitimate right that no one can ignore.

The time has come for Israel's leaders to begin addressing the political reality—the new reality that resulted from the "uprising summit" resolutions. This is so because addressing the new realities will eventually lead to the achievement of peace and prosperity for which everyone in this region has strived. If, however, Israel's leaders choose to continue ignoring this political reality, they will find themselves in the same vicious circle.

U.S. 'Pressure' Needed on Peace Conference

TA1406170288 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
14 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A More Active U.S. Role Is Required"]

[Text] The Arab states in general, and Jordan in particular, seize every opportunity to express their positions regarding the Palestinian problem and the need to find a just solution to this problem. This is necessary because this problem is the crux of the conflict in the Middle East. Jordan reiterated its position through Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in an exclusive interview with the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper.

This interview comes in the wake of the "uprising" summit conference which deepened Arab solidarity and provided a new dimension to the unity of action aimed at achieving the objectives and reaching a just and comprehensive peace. This peace can be reached after ensuring Israeli withdrawal and allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights.

In this interview, the prime minister stressed the need for convening the international conference as the only way to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the proviso that the PLO would participate in the conference as a basic condition for its convocation if it is to be effective.

Perhaps the most significant of Al-Rifa'i's remarks is that the peace process and the international conference depend on the U.S. position since Moscow and Washington must work out a joint formula on the shape and powers of the international conference. Moreover, if Washington wishes to regain its credibility in the Arab region, it should exert pressure on Israel to accept what the two superpowers agree upon. Israel's rejection of the international conference concept and its insistence on direct negotiations will foil all attempts to extricate the problem from its present stalemate. It is no longer a secret to anyone that the special relationship between the United States and Israel, as well as the immense aid that Washington showers on Israel, qualify the United States to exert pressure to force Israel to bow to international will.

It seems, however, that the U.S. Administration has no intention of using its influence and power to force Israel to move in the direction of seeking peace.

In the absence of this U.S. intention, and the consequent lack of pressure on Israel to reassess its policies, the peace process will continue to stumble and the issue will remain in its present state, eventually leading the region to the abyss.

'Sophisticated' Tank Protection Gear on Display

TA0606160588 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
6 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] For the first time the IDF will show the public its sophisticated tank protection equipment developed by RAFAEL (Armament Development Authority), which belongs to the Defense Ministry.

The new equipment protects the tank crew against antitank weapons and constitutes a revolutionary development in armored defense. The principle involves explosives planted inside plates on the tank's exterior which provide a counterexplosion if the tank is fired at, preventing damage to the tank itself.

The new protector has been in operational use in tank units for some time.

The media reported some time ago that the USSR discovered the new tank defense on an Israeli tank captured by the Syrians and transferred to the USSR. Israel neither denied nor confirmed the reports.

The new protection equipment is on display at the defense industries booth at the exhibition celebrating Israel's 40th anniversary.

Some 20 military industries are participating in the exhibition, which is showing missiles, night vision equipment, a pilotless plane, fire control systems, cannons, and rescue equipment.

Poll Gauges 'Transfer,' Equal Rights for Arabs

TA0806141788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jun 88 pp 1,6

[Report by Nurit Amitay]

[Text] About 41 percent of Israeli Jews are in favor of transfer [of Arabs from Israel and the West Bank to other countries, as proposed by various right-wing elements]. This was revealed by a national public opinion poll conducted by MODI'IN EZRAHI for Dr Yo'av Peled from the Tel Aviv University Social Sciences school, who is conducting a comprehensive study of the political stands of various population sectors in Israel. The pollsters collected answers from 1,152 interviewees, 36 of whom voted for Kakh and 67 for Tehiya. The poll was conducted within the Green Line and did not include Arabs, kibbutz members, or Jewish settlers in the territories.

Some of the poll's other findings: 45 percent of Israelis believe that Israel is too democratic, while 55 percent objected to granting equal rights to Israeli Arabs.

The poll shows that antidemocratic positions are more widespread among Tehiya voters than among Kakh voters: 69 percent of Tehiya voters believe Israel is too democratic, while only 60 percent of Kakh voters hold this opinion.

Transfer had the support of 41 percent of the general population, 42.5 percent of the Tehiya voters who participated in the poll, and 77.2 percent of Kakh voters. On this point, Dr Peled explained that the Tehiya leaders' views on the question of transfer, reflecting the party's platform which is against transfer, influences the Tehiya interviewees.

Some 50 percent of all those polled agreed to talks with the PLO in accordance with the Yariv-Shem Tov formula, that is, if the PLO recognizes Israel and ceases terrorist activities—35 percent of Kakh voters and 30 percent of Tehiya voters agreed with this. Seventy-three percent of Tehiya voters and 80 percent of Kakh voters objected to equal rights for Israeli Arabs.

Foreign Trade Data Indicates Economic Slowdown

TA1306105088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jun 88 p 9

[Report by economic reporter Avi Temkin]

[Text] Signs of an enconomic slowdown were clearly visible in foreign trade statistics published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The figures showed that the average level of both exports and imports were sharply down in the last two months, compared with February and March.

Imports declined 15 percent in April and May compared with the previous two months, while exports dropped 17.5 percent. Since Israel's import bill is much larger than its level of exports, the declines led to a narrowing of 7.5 percent in Israel's trade deficit for the last two months, compared with February-March levels, the bureau said.

The signs of economic slowdown were most strongly reflected in the statistics of imports of production inputs. They averaged $400 million in the last two months, a drop of 16 percent from February-March levels. Imports of investment goods dropped 12 percent, while imports of consumer goods fell 27 percent. Especially marked was the drop in imports consumer durables, which were down 36 percent compared with the previous two months.

Exports of industrial goods, excluding diamonds, averaged $500m. during April and May, a drop of 14 percent from the previous two months. The bureau said the fall-off had taken place in almost all sectors of industry, except the miscellaneous category. Electronics and machinery exports declined 19 percent.

The figures showed that a trade gap for May was $317m imports were $1.1 billion, while exports totalled $785m. In the first five months of the year, there was a 12.4 percent narrowing in the country's trade gap, caused mainly by a 22 percent increase in exports. They came to almost $4b. for January-May.

Imports also went up, but only 12.6 percent to a total of $5.1b. This left a trade deficit of $1.1b in the first five months of the year.

Crown Prince on PLO, International Conference

JN1506065588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 88 pp 1, 5

[By Salamah B. Ni'matt]

[Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, said Tuesday that Jordan would continue to carry the burden of a difficult socio-economic and demographic situation resulting from the 21-year-old Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Crown Prince told journalists that the Jordanian and Arab position in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as representative of Palestinian people in the occupied territories did not do away with the fact that Jordan has special economic and social considerations and interests in strengthening the steadfastness of the people in the occupied lands.

"Partial and bilateral issues may very well be handled between the PLO and Israel if an international peace conference is convened," the Crown Prince said. "But there remains the demographic dimensions."

Prince Hasan said Jordan never sought a monopoly on economic development programmes for the occupied territories and that the Kingdom had called for an international programme with the involvement of international parties as well as other Arab states.

In a meeting attended by Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah the Regent said Jordan worked for two decades, carrying the burden of the demographic impact of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. He deplored positions that cast doubt on Jordan's intentions behind supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

"For Jordan to shoulder such responsibilities and be attacked sometimes by the same people who ask for our support is something we totally reject," the Crown Prince said. "There is an overwhelming emotive current sweeping the region in support of the Palestinian identity," he said.

The Regent said that the way the Palestinian issue was handled by last week's Algiers Arab summit was ineffective and impractical in terms of chances for implementation.

"What is the use of gathering money in the name of the intifada if we cannot get the money into the occupied territories?" he asked.

The Crown Prince said that although there was Arab consensus to support the Palestinian uprising there was no agreed-upon criteria for this support and channels to be used.

"We will see in the next six months how Arab suport will work," he said, noting that Jordan would remain the occupied land's window to the east,"

He said that at this stage of challenges and threats to Jordan, there was a commitment to "the principle of safeguarding the geopolitical stability of the area called the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

Making an assessment of the Algiers summit, Foreign Minister al-Masri said the conference took a clear stand on the question of the proposed international conference without imposing Arab principles for a settlement as preconditions for convening the conference.

He said the question of Palestinian representation—whether in a separate delegation or within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team—was not discussed.

Al-Masri said there was no definite amount of financial assistance committed on a collective or bilateral basis during the summit conference. He said the issue was left for further contacts.

On the economic situation in Jordan, the Crown Prince said a serious review was ongoing in the Kingdom of economic problems, including unemployment and poverty and that there was a growing awareness that the situation does not allow for procrastination.

He called on economics writers and columnists to focus on simplifying information to facilitate the people's understanding of ongoing issues. He said that articles on economy need to be supported by a strong information base.

The Regent said there was a need to focus on improving exports and looking into legislation related to industries and the private sector. He said that the banking system must move from their traditional role into a more active developmental role. He called for establishment of an economic working team that would debate economic issues and problems as they arise.

Dr Ahmad Mango, an economics consultant to the Crown Prince, said Jordan was an integral part of the region and could not isolate its economy from the rest of the world. "In the past two years, we have achieved economic adjustments in the public and private sectors without tough regulations and restrictions as in other third World countries. We have kept imports open and maintained the convertibility of the dinar."

He noted that a decline in the rate of imports was achieved over the past two years, spending was reduced and there was currently a pressure towards further reduction of imports and in government consumptions.

Mango said the economy had reached stability after a decline in the rate of growth, and that if the economy was not moved, it could stagnate. He said that the private

sector was expected to be the engine of growth in the 80s and 90s. He said there would be a mid-term reevaluation of the five-year development plan.

The Crown Prince's meeting with journalists was held at the Royal Scientific Society.

Soviets Send Message on Moscow Summit

JN1206123788 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Jun 88 pp 1, 17

[Rakan al-Majali dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian Government yesterday received a message from the Soviet Government on the talks recently held in Moscow between Soviet and U.S. leaders, especially on talks related to the Mideast conflict. The Soviet message affirmed that the meeting to be held between the U.S. secretary of state and his Soviet counterpart in Washington today will be entirely devoted to the Palestine question. The message also affirmed that meetings of experts preceded this meeting to draw up clear-cut ideas on this issue. The Soviet message indicated that Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will soon visit the concerned Arab capitals. It also said that an approximation of Soviet-U.S. stands toward a Middle East settlement has been secured. The message stated that positive results came out of the historic meeting held between Reagan and Gorbachev and added that these results concern many points and issues. As for the Middle East, a firm agreement has been reached on convening of the international conference. For the first time, the United States enthusiastically agreed to see this conference convene with participation of the concerned parties and on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

The Soviet Union was also promised by the U.S. Administration that this conference will be allowed to convene soon. As for the preparatory committee comprising the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, an announcement will be made about this. The agreement reached, in principle, provides for the formation of this committee and also for extending the conference invitations during the Reagan Administration's term in office.

A ranking Jordanian official affirmed to AL-QABAS that the U.S. and Soviet stands have come close and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz informed the Jordanian monarch during his Amman visit that the Soviet stand, from the U.S. point of view, was very positive and that the Soviet Union seeks to resolve all conflicts through peace talks.

This official added that the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to convene the international conference. However, he added that there were differences between the two superpowers on basic issues pertaining to the convening of the conference and the success of negotiations, including the United States' principled refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Soviet Union tried to link the right to self-determination to recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338. However, the U.S. admininistration rejected such a stand. Besides, the Soviet Union affirmed during the talks that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is not an absolute one, but rather is linked to reality. This reality is represented by the international and legal status of the occupied territories, by the links binding the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, and also by an implicit PLO admission that no independent [Palestinian] entity can exist without maintaining a link to Jordan. Despite all this, the United States rejects this Soviet stand and recognizes the Palestinian people's legal rights, but falls short of recognizing their right to self-determination. Furthermore, the United States has continued to reject any PLO participation in the international conference or in any talks before it recognizes Resolution 242. [Passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y on Diplomatic Ties With Singapore

JN1306092688 Amman AL-RA'Y Arabic 13 June 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—In a session yesterday, the Council of Ministers decided to establish dipolomatic relations between Jordan and Singapore at the ambassadorial level. Representation shall be through nonresident ambassadors.

Israeli, Norwegian Units in South on 'Alert'

NC1406104688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, a state of alert has been declared among Israeli units and Norwegian contingents in the Wad Tibin-'Ayta al-Zutt area. Though the circumstances are unclear, the reports indicate that four persons were killed, four wounded, and three others missing in the region last night.

Timor Goksel, UNIFIL spokesman in the South, stated a short while ago that the Israeli soldiers have surrounded a Norwegian position, establishing their own position near the Norwegian post in Al-Habbariyah, within the security zone. According to Goksel, the Israeli soldiers prevented the Norwegians from leaving their position, claiming that the area falls within Israeli jurisdiction. Goksel declared that the incident occurred after Norwegian soldiers prevented Israeli troops from establishing a post in the UNIFIL-supervised region.

Amal Issues Statement on Clash in South

NC1406113088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau on 14 June]

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Front-Amal has fought a grinding battle against a position manned jointly by the Israeli enemy and its agents in the Bayt Yahun area. Various types of weapons were used in the 1-hour battle, in which the enemy suffered grave losses in personnel. In addition, a number of enemy emplacements of heavy-caliber weapons were destroyed. Four resistance fighters—Muhammad Salih, Salman 'Ali Khalifah, and two members of the Murtada family—were martyred and a number of fighters were wounded during the battle.

The Amal Movement, while offering four of its torches along the road of resistance for the sake of liberating the land, pledges to its people to step up resistance until the occupied border strip has been liberated. The Movement urges all the sons of the Movement, the devout, and honest people to immediately join the resistance operations room in the South to confront the occupation and its ceaseless attempts to subdue and Judaize our land.

The Amal Movement calls on the sons of our people and the oppressed from the various Lebanese areas and sects to treat the liberation of the border strip and the halting of Israeli interventions in Lebanese affairs as a top priority and to transfer weapons being used along the inter-Lebanese combat lines to the South. The danger comes from Israel, and defense of the South means defense of the homeland. Protecting the freedom of man and the defense of the South are legitimate duties.

Approximately 40 Lahd Militiamen Said To Desert

NC1406155288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, approximately 40 members of the agent Lahd militia have deserted. The majority of the deserters come from Hasbayya, 'Ayn Qinya, Al-Furaydis, Burghuz, 'Ayn Harfa, and Shwayya. Their action came after the Lebanese resistance distributed, on the eve of the 6th anniversary of the Israeli incursion, statements warning the members of the agent militia to desert. The agent militia's command refused to release the forces, who then took their step.

According to the same reports, 'Alam al-Din Badawi, the official in charge of Lahd's militia in Hasbayya, organized a night raid and arrested a few members of the militia, while others managed to leave the border strip area.

Resistance Group Fires Rockets into Israel

NC1406163988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The united national resistance has stated that at dawn today one of its groups, operating inside the occupied border strip, fired three modified Grad rockets at the Menora settlement in Upper Galilee inside the occupied territories.

Reportage on Al-Jumayyil, Al-Asad Meeting

Agree on Holding Elections

NC1406195488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The West Beirut-based AL-SHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY today carried an exclusive report on the recent talks between Al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad. According to the news agency, the talks centered on three topics, but led to a single decision; namely, to hold presidential elections by the deadline stipulated by the Constitution. The agency added that the two other issues, which concern forming an interm government and a so-called administrative Beirut, were discussed and shelved.

Al-Jumayyil Ready To Reform

NC1506071388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Reporting on the meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian presidents on the sidelines of the Algiers summit, the newspaper AL-SAFIR says that President Amin al-Jumayyil expressed readiness to arrive at a solution for Lebanon based on political reform. President al-Jumayyil stressed that his only concern is to see that his term in office ends with good relations with all parties. He also stressed that he had resisted all pressure aimed at causing any estrangement with Syria.

According to AL-SAFIR, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said that Syria will continue to support Lebanon and will not shrink from this support, regardless of the circumstances. Al-Asad further said that President al-Jumayyil must find an accomodation with the opposition.

Al-Asad said that Syria is ready to provide Lebanon complete support and assistance, and that it supports all the Lebanese people in the event detente is reached. Accordingly, Syria refuses to support this or that side. Syria, however, supports those who are fighting the Israeli enemy.

Al-Asad advised Al-Jumayyil to work to bring about a minimum of detente to pave the way for crossing the constitutional deadline with a unified stand among all parties eager for Lebanon's unity.

Birri Cited on Presidential Talks, Hizballah

NC1406170688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] In an interview with a BBC correspondent in Damascus, Minister Nabih Birri has said that the meeting between Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad can hardly be viewed as encouraging if the past is any indication. Al-Jumayyil earlier made many promises that have yielded no results, Birri asserted. We have to concentrate on the content of the meeting, not just the fact that it took place, he said.

Birri reiterated the call for reconciliation before elections, saying that having elections before reconciliation could evoke the threat of partitioning the country.

Birri said that the existence of militias is a temporary phenomenon and that all militias should join in a single national army endorsed by all Lebanese. Birri voiced the opinion that collecting weapons from East Beirut would involve what he called the Israeli factor. Such a task, he said, cannot be performed without a certain measure of pressure or force.

Speaking of Amal-Hizballah reconciliation, Birri said: What happened in the [southern Beirut] suburb and the South was flagrant aggression by Hizballah against the resistance. When Hizballah decides to return to Islam and revise its policies in the South, we will be able to sit and talk.

DFLP Resumes Participation in Camps Committee

NC1406152488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The DFLP has declared its decision to resume its role in the seven-member [Palestinian follow-up] committee to stop the camps war. A DFLP spokesman has expressed hope that the committee will be able to carry out its full mission in implementing the cease-fire agreement and all provisions of the 9 May agreement and its mechanism, which was agreed on 21 May. This mission stopped after the withdrawal of cannons and additional concentrations from the Beirut camps. He also expressed hope that the various parties would abide by their political pledges to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and to the higher follow-up committee in Damascus. The spokesman reiterated the call to the Lebanese national movement and Syrian observers to help implement the agreements and establish security in the camps.

Fatah-The Uprising Said To Arrest Own Members

NC1406174888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] In a telephone call to our radio station this evening, a Palestinian source has revealed that a number of military officers from Fatah-the Uprising were arrested in Damascus 2 days ago on instructions from Abu Khalid al-'Amlah [Fatah-the Uprising assistant secretary and chief of the PNSF military department], for refusing orders to leave for Lebanon and join the military positions in the camps.

The same source added that a number of families of the fighters, who came to Beirut from Damascus, have requested that their sons be released, following reports that Fatah-the Uprising secretly buried some 25 of its fighters in Al-Biqa' 3 days ago. This caused sharp discord in Beirut between Abu 'Isa, a Fatah-the Uprising member, and Abu Fadi Hammad, the organization's commander in the Beirut area.

When asked for the names of the dead persons, the source said the following had been identified: Yusuf Ahmad al-Dimashqi, Muhammad Ibrahim Hajjaj, 'Abdallah Muzari', Yusuf Balqis, and Walid 'Abdallah al-Khawladi.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Message to Soviet, European Leaders

LD1506084088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 14, BAKHTAR—President of Afghanistan, Najibullah, while his plane was crossing the air space of the Soviet Union on its way to Kabul, addressed a message to general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, A. Gromyko.

The message says that the friendly ties and cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are strengthening and expanding under the Tashkent joint-statement.

The message expressed confidence that these friendly and traditional relations will further strengthen in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and peace in the region and the world.

"Availing the opportunity, I wish to you, dear comrades, best health and further successes for your country in implementation of the reconstruction policy and strengthening of peace in the world", the message notes.

Similar messages were also addressed to the leaders of Canada, England, Denmark, Sweden and Ireland by President Najibullah while his plane was passing the air spaces of these countires.

Wakil Discusses UN Visit, Talks With Officials

LD1306190088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] One of the main results of our visit to New York to attend the UN General Assembly's third special session on disarmament is that we had an opportunity to see for ourselves that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union's stand on implementing the Geneva accords, particularly in the practical field, is widely supported in the world body, stated 'Abdul Wakil, Afghan minister of foreign affairs.

Together with Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, he made a brief stopover in Moscow on the way home from the Republic of Cuba, where the Afghan leader stayed on an official visit following his participation in the UN third special session on disarmament.

The Afghan foreign minister said in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent before leaving the Soviet capital that, when in New York, he learned that Diego Cordovez is to visit Islamabad, Kabul, and Tehran at the end of June to familiarize himself with the course of the Geneva accords.

It follows from the meetings with the UN secretary general and his personal envoy Diego Cordovez that the international community would demand that Pakistan implement the Geneva accords, 'Abdul Wakil said.

The UN member nations showed concern over the development of events around Afghanistan, and this inspires hope that the international community will render assistance to us in our attempts to normalize the situation in Afghanistan and around it, 'Abdul Wakil emphasized.

Commentary on Najibullah's Tour to UN, Cuba

LD1406105788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0500 GMT 14 Jun 88

["A Commentary on Najibullah's Participation in UN Session and His Visit to Cuba"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, June 13, BAKHTAR—The participation of a high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan headed by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the third special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament and Najibullah's official and friendly visit to the Republic of Cuba were two great political events. It is of great significance to the Afghan people because of its great role in deepening relations, political understanding and in the consolidation of international stand of the country.

President Najibullah and members of his delegation clearly described the political thinking of the Republic on world peace and security. The speech of President Najibullah to that session once again made it clear that the people and the Government of Afghanistan are campaigning against nuclear weapons, its production, test and its stockpiling including regional conflicts, hate, [as received] war and war mongers.

The Republic of Afghanistan has expressed its decisive support to talks held between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States in Moscow and Washington for the cause of peace and global disarmaments. The Republic of Afghanistan will continue to give its support to any initiatives to be made for the cause of peace and disarmament including the removal of regional conflicts throughout the world.

It is fully clear to all nations that really the Republic of Afghanistan struggles for peace and human prosperity in the international arena, the Asian region as well as the Republic of Afghanistan and content of the policy of national reconciliation is based on this principle. [sentence as received] At present people of the world have noticed more than any other time that the Republic of Afghanistan has been really loyal to the Geneva Accords on solution of the situation around Afghanistan and takes practical steps in realization of the accords. Only the Pakistani side does not want to regard the Geneva accords and opposes them.

Everybody knows that the Republic of Afghanistan, as an old and active member of the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement has supported consistently world peace, disarmament, peaceful coexistence and settlement of the regional conflicts through political means and improves and develops its relations with other countries on the basis of equal rights.

The official and friendly visit of the highranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan led by President Najibullah to the Republic of Cuba at the invitation of Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of State Council of the Republic of Cuba, is a good manifestation of this fact.

The official and friendly visit of the Afghan delegation to Cuba is a manifestation of the support of peace-loving nations to the policy of national reconciliation and the visit can be considered as further strengthening of international position of the Republic of Afghanistan. The visit has laid a good base for strengthening and expansion of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Afghanistan and Cuba. Both countries, Afghanistan and Cuba, fight for freedom, independence, socioeconomic and cultural development of their people. Both countries have similar views toward cause of peace, disarmament, elimination of nuclear tests as well as solution of the regional conflicts through peaceful means. Thus this visit is of major significance in the international arena.

The Republic of Cuba supports the policy of national reconcilation, the Geneva accords aimed for the cessation of war and non-interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and unimpeded return of the Afghan refugees back home.

During that friendly visit agreement on friendly cooperation, agreement on inter-party relations between the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and Communist Party of Cuba and a protocol on cultural cooperation were signed between the two countries.

In appreciation of the resolutely support of Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and his continued solidarity with the struggle of the Cuban people, Fidel Castro Ruz, leader of the Cuban Republic awarded Najibullah with the highest state order of that country.

These facts testify the support of the world people to the policy of national reconciliation and principled peaceful stand of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Despite the futile attempts of those forces who oppose the peaceful policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, the international stand of the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan is strengthening by every passing day.

It is a clear reality now that the policy of national reconciliation as a new political thinking has been welcomed by the entire world people. The international stand of the Republic of Afghanistan for the ensurance of peace and stability in the country is consolidating.

Without doubt, these two events have elevated international stand and political prestige of our country into a higher qualitative level.

Friendly relations between the people of Afghanistan and the heroic people of Cuba are strengthening and consolidating in favour of peace, progress and fruitful cooperations.

Memo on Pakistani Violations Submitted to UN

LD1406182788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's liaison office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that the Afghan Government's 26th memorandum was handed to the UNGOMAP office.

This memorandum gives information of six cases of Pakistan's blatant violation of article 2, document no 1 of the Geneva accords, with details of places, dates and circumstances. The memorandum requests that these violations be investigated in accordance with paragraph 7 of document no 4 of the Geneva accords, and that the findings be conveyed to the Afghan authorities and the UN secretary general's special envoy.

Indian 'Listening Posts' Report to Kabul, Moscow

OW1506003088 Tokyo KYODO in English 0010 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 14 KYODO—Afghan guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar Tuesday accused India of having set up three listening posts in the Afghan cities of Jalalabad, Qandahar and Gardeyz near the Pakistan border.

The three "communication centers" were intercepting the messages of the Afghan guerrillas and passing these to Moscow, Kabul and New Delhi, he claimed at a news conference.

Hikmatyar said India was the only country outside the Warsaw Pact extending assistance to the Soviet-aided government of Afghan President Najibullah.

Soviet Officer Comments on Security in Herat

LD1406104188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 13, BAKHTAR—"The objective need for the growth of good neighbourly relations between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union resulted in conclusion of the February 28, 1921

treaty which is of great international significance for both countries", said Colonel Igrolokov [name as received], head of the political office of the transport section of the limited Soviet contingent in the Republic of Afghanistan here in an interview on the internationalist duty of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union transformed in to brotherhood after April Revolution and both countries helped each other in the most critical moments.

Eight years ago, Colonel Igrolokov said, while the people of Afghanistan were faced with the undeclared war of imperialism they asked their old friend, the Soviet Union, for assistance. Based on the 51 Article of the UN Charter of the USSR responded positively to the Afghan people. At present the Soviet soldiers and officers along with their Afghan friends guarantee peace and security in the country.

The Soviet servicemen of his contingent not only maintain peace and security in Herat Province, bordering Iran, but they assist the residents of Herat in repairing of roads, bridges as well as construction of a dam on Harirud river in Herat Province as well, the Soviet officer noted.

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

Air Force Chief Killed

BK1406133088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 14 (AFP)—The chief of staff of the Afghan Air Force was killed last week in intensified fighting in southern Qandahar, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

Major General Muhammad 'Aziz Sarwari died in action June 6, they said.

But the Kabul authorities said Gen. Sarwari died of natural causes, the diplomats reported.

The diplomats said security has been deteriorating in Afghanistan's second-biggest city, forcing Soviet troops there to delay their withdrawal and reinforcements to be sent in.

They said mujahidin have succeeded in overrunning some Soviet and Afghan bases in Qandahar. The guerrillas also downed two Soviet helicopters and seized two military jeeps on the city's defence perimeter.

There have been successive mujahidin victories in and around the city, the diplomats quoted local sources as saying.

The guerrillas are getting stronger and have established administrations as well as limited public services in surrounding villages, they said.

"The mujahidin have virtually besieged the city," one diplomat said.

They are now able to penetrate the city in small groups virtually at will, the diplomats added.

The diplomats said mujahidin have gathered in large numbers in the suburbs of the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad, corroborating the Afghan resistance's claim that an assault was imminent.

The diplomats said mujahidin distributed leaflets warning travellers to avoid the Jalalabad road after June 4.

Diplomats said the rebels have staged a series of attacks on the Mahi Par area, close to the main dam supplying power to Kabul, and overrun two posts.

A big post in Tangi was also seized by the rebels and they captured many troops, the diplomats said. The Kabul forces commander at the post refused to surrender and was executed, the diplomats said.

Heavy bombardment from a nearby Soviet post flushed out the occupying guerrillas, who took away or destroyed most of the armaments.

Diplomats also reported heavy fighting in the southeastern Ghazni area and retaliatory strikes by the Soviet artillery in areas around the city.

They said Soviet troops razed a nearby village after rebels destroyed two Soviet armoured personnel carriers and tortured the crews to death.

Earlier this month, mujahidin ambushed a jeep killing a Soviet advisor and an Afghan secret police, or KHAD agent, the diplomats said.

The diplomats also said that, despite threats that the Soviet withdrawal would be suspended if alleged violations of the Geneva accord covering it were not stopped, troops continue to head through Kabul towards the Soviet border.

Hundreds of Soviet vehicles last week moved into Kabul along the Lowgar road and continued north on the Salang highway, the diplomats added.

A Soviet general based at the 40th Army headquarters, southwest of Kabul, contradicted East European diplomats when he recently told visiting journalists that Soviet forces were not being attacked as they left Afghanistan.

He described the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan as a "political and military defeat", adding that: "Afghanistan was not ready for socialism," the diplomats said.

'Cease-Fire' in Jalalabad

OW1406141988 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 14 KYODO—Afghan guerrillas and government troops are observing an "unofficial ceasefire" in the border town of Jalalabad and not a single rocket has been fired during the month of June, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Earlier last month Afghan guerrillas had distributed leaflets in Kabul advising travelers to avoid journeys on the Kabul-Jalalabad road in June. An article in the KABUL TIMES, the official newspaper of the Kabul government, has challenged the Afghan mujahidin (freedom-fighters) investing Jalalabad city to "do their worst" to take over the town.

The Western sources said that instead of carrying out attacks and leading a straight offensive on Jalalabad, the mujahidin were now negotiating with "junior officers" of the Jalalabad garrison, urging them to defect.

"The situation around this border town is being viewed as a test of the Kabul government's ability to survive," the sources said.

The mujahidin have overrun a number of military posts east of the capital on the road toward Jalalabad, capturing many soldiers and seizing consignments of arms and ammunition. Western diplomatic sources said that the Indian Embassy has already started evacuation of its staff from the Jalalabad consulate, a move which appears to contradict the confidence expressed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New York, when he said that the Kabul government had good prospects of survival, they said.

Nangarhar, Konarha Shelled

LD1406170088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] A BIA military correspondent reports from Nangarhar Province that warmongering extremist elements yesterday shelled the residential areas of Shiveh with heavy weapons martyring 5 compatriots and wounding another 12 persons. A number of houses were also damaged. The wounded were quickly taken to the hospital where their conditions have been described as satisfactory.

According to another report from Konarha Province, extremist elements yesterday fired heavy weapons at the residential areas of [name indistinct] village, Konarha Province, seriously damaging 10 houses.

According to another report, on Saturday 11 June, extremist elements fired heavy weapons at the residential areas of Andar village, Badghis Province, martyring five of our compatriots and wounding seven others. The wounded were quickly hospitalized. This painful incident also resulted in material losses.

Clashes in Nangarhar, Qandahar

LD1406183188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Continuing their duties, the country's armed forces today crushed another group of extremists who were disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants of Shiveh district, Nangarhar Province.

A BIA military correspondent reports from Nangarhar Province that these activities were carried out with the direct cooperation of the people in order to prevent extremists crimes. As a result, a number of extremist elements were crushed. Two surface-to-surface rocket launchers were destroyed and a number of extremists hideouts were eliminated.

According to another reports, a group of professional terrorists, who were disrupting peace in (Qal'eh-ye Dasht) and (Taj Muhammad) villages, (Shakr Darreh) district, were crushed yesterday by the armed forces. The report adds as a result of this action, 1,000 heavy arms and a number of terrorist hideouts were destroyed.

Another report from Qandahar says that during mopping up operations in Spin Buldak district, Qandahar Province, several terrorists nests were eliminated, a group of warmongering elements were crushed and dozens of their weapons were destroyed.

Another report from Badghis and Ghazni Provinces states that two groups of extremsts which were using heavy weapons and carrying out terrorist activities and disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Badghis Province, Moqor district and the environs of Ghazni Province, were recently crushed as a result of mopping up operations by the armed forces of the country. The report adds that as a result of these actions, one heavy machinegun, one rocket launcher, two light arms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition have been seized by the security forces.

Hikmatyar Describes Interim Government, Strategy

OW1506010388 Tokyo KYODO in English 0035 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 15 KYODO—Afghan guerrillas have finalized a comprehensive strategy to attack the Afghan capital of Kabul and other major cities, guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar said Tuesday.

Hikmatyar, who hands over the chairmanship of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin representing seven Pakistan-based guerrilla groups Wednesday to Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, told a press conference that an interim government would "soon be set up in liberated areas" of Afghanistan.

"Nobody can rule Afghanistan but the Afghan mujahidin," Hikmatyar declared, and added that Afghan commanders would be asked to form local governments in their respective areas. As a first step, the interim government would appoint governors and subgovernors in all districts and provinces, he said.

Hikmatyar said that portfolios of 12 ministers to be included in the interim Government of Afghanistan would soon be announced.

Commenting on reports that fighting was still continuing at Khowst in Paktia Province, 25 kilometers from the Pakistan border, Hikmatyar said that 90 percent of the territory was already under mujahidin control and they were reluctant to launch an offensive against the town because it would cause the death of innocent civilians.

Briefs

Protocol With Tajik SSR

A protocol on direction cooperation was signed today in Kabul with the Tajik SSR for the future development of the provinces of Konduz, Takhar, and Badakhshan. The protocol was signed by the governors of Konduz, Takhar, and Badakhshan, and by the first deputies of the executive committees of Kurgan-Tyube, Leninabad, and Gorno-Badakhshan of the Tajik SSR in the presence of Sayyed Ekran Pagir, minister of state for direct cooperation affairs, and Umanov, deputy chairman of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers and foreign minister of that republic. [Text] [*LD1106010888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jun 88*]

India

Pakistani Nonproliferation Proposal 'Dismissed'

BK1406075088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] India has dismissed the renewed Pakistani proposal for bilateral nuclear nonproliferation as a propaganda ploy. Speaking at the third special UN General Assembly disarmament session last night, the Indian envoy, Mr C. Ghare Khan, said the so-called proposals by Islamabad are only meant to conceal reality. He said the fact remains that Pakistan is very close to acquiring nuclear weapons, if it has not done so already. Mr Ghare Khan said nuclear nonproliferation cannot be a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan, when the whole neighborhood is bristling with nuclear weapons. He referred to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's 22-year plan to do away with atomic weapons and said if Pakistan is serious, they should address themselves to that instead of engaging in futile propaganda gimmicks.

Radio on PRC Boundary Dispute, Bilateral Trade

BK1406111388 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Commentary by Mahesh Prasad]

[Text] Successive attempts to resolve the thorny boundary issue between India and China have not borne much fruit. This, has, however, not come in the way of normalization of relations in other spheres. The agreement between the two countries to resume border trade should be seen in this light. India has always held the view that difficulties in resolving major political issues with its neighbors should not come in the way of normalizing or promoting relations in other spheres of life. This would, in fact, pave the way for resolving major issues.

Trade between India and China, which was stopped in 1962 following the border conflict, was resumed in 1977. However, the two-way trade was very low in initial years. It was a mere 25.60 million rupees in 1977-78, but increased to 1,171.80 million rupees in 1982-83. Trade between the two countries, however, did not pick up significantly despite an agreement in 1984 to raise the two-way trade gradually to $1 billion or 13 million rupees at the current exchange rate in a period of 5 years. Moreover, trade has been heavily in favor of China. In a trade turnover of 1,876.70 million rupees in 1986-87, India's exports to China were worth 143.30 million rupees as against imports valued at 1,733.40 million rupees. It is significant that the trade protocol signed in Beijing last week does not fix any targets or ceilings but takes note of the potential for further growth of trade on a more balanced basis.

Traditionally, trade between the two countries was being carried out through the Tibet border. The process came to a halt in 1962. Under the recent trade protocol, these two countries would soon meet to finalize the modalities for the resumption of the border trade after India sends a draft proposal. As the Chinese minister for foreign trade, Mr Zheng Tuobin, remarked at the signing ceremony, the resumption of border trade would add a new dimension to the economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Ever since 1978, China has tried to follow an open policy with a view to modernizing its economy and absorbing foreign capital and technology. In pursuance of the policy, a large number of special economic zones, SEZ's, were set up, which had by May 1987 attracted overseas investments totaling $8 billion spread over 8,332 enterprises. It is widely recognized that there is a vast potential for India in this field.

The commercial counselor to the Chinese Embassy in India, Mr (Hei Wei), told the Indian Merchants Chamber recently that his country was open to new technology and that several areas were being explored for cooperation with India. He specifically mentioned in this connection the diamond-cutting industry, which was of

great interest to China, as it had a large number of diamond mines but had no cutting or polishing facilities. A high-level Chinese delegation also had discussions last week with the Confederation of the Engineering Industry. The delegation invited investment from India. Specific areas where investment could be made were identified as light engineering, machinery, electronics, steel, chemicals, and textiles.

Under the protocol, China hopes to import from India mineral ore, agricultural products, chemicals, engineering products, urea, plywood, jewels, and processed diamonds and synthetic yarn. Indian imports from China would include raw silk and silk yarn worth $40 million, agricultural products and native produce, metals and minerals, chemicals and petroleum products, fresh water cultivated pearls, engineering products, pharmaceuticals, and pig iron. It may be mentioned in this connection that a high-level delegation to China headed by the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council chairman, Mr T.V. Maruti, is expected to finalize this week a long-term arrangement for the supply of raw silk and yarn to India.

India and China are both committed to a peaceful solution of the Sino-Indian boundary question through friendly negotiations and in a manner acceptable to both peoples. The Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, told the former foreign minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, in Beijing last month that eight rounds of boundary talks had enhanced mutual understanding. During talks between the two leaders there was emphasis on building understanding and enhancing mutual confidence to provide the correct backdrop for resolving the boundary issue. The trade protocol signed last week could prepare the ground for the next round of talks, the dates for which are yet to be announced.

Security Tightened for 16 Jun By-Elections

BK1406133888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] The month-long campaigning for Thursday's by-elections ended this afternoon. Seven parliamentary and 11 assembly constituencies are going to the polls and these are spread over 8 states. The authorities have made elaborate arrangements to ensure a peaceful and fair poll. The state police has been supplemented by central security forces to prevent any untoward incidents. The election commission has appointed several observers to oversee the by-elections.

For the parliamentary seats there are in all 127 candidates, the largest number of them being in Allahabad, where 68 candidates are in the fray. They include [former Defense and Finance Minister] V.P. Singh, who is contesting as an independent, with Mr Sunil Shastri of Congress-I and Mr Kanshi Ram of the Bahujan Samaj Party as his main rivals. For the 11 assembly constituencies there are 97 contestants in all.

Two 'Assailants' Killed Near Golden Temple

BK1406130088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] In Amritsar, two unidentified assailants were killed when CRPF jawans [Central Reserve Police Force soldiers] opened fire in self-defense at Chowk Ghantaghar [intersection in front of the Golden Temple] today. Reports say the two assailants attacked the jawans at Checkpoint No 1 with kirpans [knives]. Two of the jawans received serious injuries and another received minor injuries. A jawan opened fire in self-defense in which both the persons were killed. Following the incident, the visit of pilgrims to the Golden Temple was suspended for some time.

In another incident this evening, some unidentified persons opened fire in Sultanwind area in Amritsar and injured three persons, two of them seriously. All the injured have been admitted to hospital.

Tribesmen Demand Reorganization of Assam State

BK1506090688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] In Assam, the 12-hour bundh [strike] today failed to evoke any response except in some tribal areas. The call for the bundh had been given by the United Reservation Movement Council of Assam, demanding reorganization of the state. In Guwahati, the bundh had no impact, as all the government offices, business establishments, and markets remained opened. However, in some areas of Karimganj and Silchar, shops are closed and vehicular traffic off the road, but government offices are functioning.

Meanwhile, train services in the state remained suspended for the 2d day today following the 100-hour rail-cum-road roko [blockade] agitation called by the All-Boro Students Union. They are demanding a separate homeland for the tribals. State transport corporation buses and private vehicles are plying normally except in the tribal-dominated Kokrajhar District.

Iran

Ties With France To Be Reestablished 16 Jun

LD1506104688 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and France are to reestablish diplomatic ties Thursday, said a brief joint statement issued in Tehran and Paris Wednesday. Ambassadors are to be exchanged shortly, it added.

Relations between the two countries were severed last July and recently following talks between Tehran and Paris officials the two countries decided to resume diplomatic ties.

Flag of Freedom Notes Khomeyni Death 'Rumor'
TA1406181288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Reports from our fellow strugglers indicate that the rumor of Khomeyni's death has been gaining widespread circulation in Tehran. Even those closest to the regime have been heard to say that Khomeyni has died, but the regime is afraid to announce his death out of apprehension of an uprising against the regime.

We remind you that 4 nights ago the CBS television network announced that Khomeyni is gravely ill, suffering from prostate and kidney cancer, and that he has only a few months more to live. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference
D1406230188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jun 88

[News conference by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in chief, with unidentified Central News Unit correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operations were our first extensive and substantial offensive operations. If possible, please give us some details about the reason for choosing that region and details of those operations.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operations were totally unprecedented, qualitatively and specifically. We have had many extensive operations, but never of such destructive power, such intensity, and under such conditions.

First, these operations were motivated by the desire to defer to the conditions at the fronts where the fires of battle should always be kept red hot; after all, we are engaged in a war. Second, these operations were also motivated by the fact that after carrying out its operations in this region, the enemy left its fortifications and trenches, its lines were thinly spread across the fields, and it had not yet been able to construct new fortifications as it had in other places. It is rare to find such conditions during the war, and we can make good use of such opportunities.

Moreover, in order to acquaint ourselves with the enemy's situation in that region, we needed to be able to evaluate the his condition. Of course, such an evaluation is often limited and is not usually undertaken on a wide scale. However, time and opportunity were on our side, and we began operations to discover the enemy's condition. Moreover, we had received some information about planned enemy offensives, and we had to deliver a preemptive strike at them before they could initiate any operations.

Another point to note is that following certain events in the past, our fighters were very anxious for revenge, for combat. In any case, we could not allow their inclinations to be suppressed. It was an answer to the call of our fighters, and it is not easy to ignore that demand.

Another point was that under present conditions, world blasphemy's propaganda has adopted the postion of trying to strengthen the morale of the Saddamists and to weaken the morale of our people. Therefore, we had to do something to refute their propaganda, even though they are now still engaged in mischief.

In their first communique after the operations began, the Iraqis used and are still using trickery. The Iraqis said that the Iranians have occupied such an area in such and such a place, that we have infiltrated their positions and are planning to force them back. In the first communique of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, we formally announced that those operations were punitive operations. We have blocked their propaganda claim. However, no one pays any attention to that point and they go on to claim that we were planning to capture Basra, for instance, or do something else, but that Iraq succeeded in stopping us. In this way and through these means they try to portray it as a success for Iraq.

However, with this operation we should convince the Iraqis, particularly the Iraqi Armed Forces, that they have chosen a dangerous path. If we make the decision to destroy the Iraqi forces, indeed our forces have a strong capability for action. The interesting point we should stress is that at the moment, the moves undertaken by Iraq in the Al-Faw Peninsula and Shalamcheh should be answered in kind. Our people will certainly not be content with such responses, and our fighters are also very anxious to retaliate appropriately, and will do so. We should maintain our state of preparedness for the sake of that goal.

[Correspondent] One of the special attributes of "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" was the extensive losses the enemy suffered compared with our damages and losses. I want to ask you about the very large figures for enemy casualties. If this is a new war policy, can we be expecting heavy enemy casualties with smaller losses for ourselves?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As far as figures are concerned, they are correct. Some 50 Iraqi battalions directly engaged our forces and the majority of their forces were destroyed, captured, died, fled, or were wounded. As we did not stay in the area, we do not know the condition of their wounded. They did suffer large casualties. We heavily shelled their positions, and our helicopters and aircraft were very active. The statistics are not complete. As far as POW's are concerned, the totals have been announced. Our low casualty figures was quite interesting, as at first, I had not been too optimsitic. However, I was told last night that our casualties were quite limited, considering the fact we moved some 10 to 12 km into enemy territory and captured their artillery and the

commander of the artillery units. As you know, the artillery is far to the rear of the front, and yet to go that deep and return and also engage such a number of enemy personnel with the activities of enemy's artillery, helicopters and aircraft.... [incomplete sentence as heard]

The discipline of our forces in this operation was notable. For us this was a practice operation. Usually, we attack and stay. An operation which includes a disciplined withdrawal needs practice. This practice operation was very successful. Our forces advanced skillfully and returned in like manner. They carried out their work very well. As for continuing this practice operation as a policy, I believe that as long as the Iraqis continue their present policies, such actions will naturally be carried out. Our main policy reamins the same as our previous war policy, with the addition of this new technique. However, as far as using it is concerned, much will depend on conditions at the time.

[Correspondent] My last question concerns your future plans as acting commander in chief of the forces. What are the programs of the armed forces, the IRGC, and other war-related issues?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding the war, we follow the leadership's views. The great leader has determined that we will continue the war until we get our rights and victory. We must continue this approach. Regarding a nonmilitary solution to the war, we have declared our position on athis. If they really want to end the war, they can do so easily. As soon as they decide, they can come to offer their surrender to justice. We do not insist on achieving victory through military means and war. However, we are not very optimsitic about this point. The war is under our control. Possibilities are not something we can plan even though it may happen [the enemy surrendering to right and justice]. Therefore, we have planned to continue the war.

We have not yet started the extensive work that was announced, although considerable planning has taken place. The main emphasis is on complete coordination between the IRGC, the armed forces, the Gendarmerie, other forces involved in the war, and the Construction Jihad that supports the engineering and government sectors' needs. The coordination plan has progressed considerably and we are gradually beginning work.

The other aspect is the presence of popular forces. I stress here that our dear nation, particularly the youth and the fighting forces who have already gained experience at the fronts, should not think that because they once went to the fronts they need go no longer. Now it is the duty of everyone to announce their readiness at the local mobilization department. Until they are told not to come, they are dutybound to come to the fronts. As for timing, we should not be kept waiting. We should act seriously. Some strata have already declared their readiness, in the government and other sectors. They are all prepared for service as ordered by the imam. Of course, we should rely more on the conscipts as they make up the main body of the armed forces. A large percentage of the forces are made up of those young people who are at the fronts right now, in the name of their national and Islamic duty. They play a large role in both support and at the battlefronts. We should rely more heavily on them as the backbone of the armed forces. This is one of our plans. When we announce our future plans then the effects can be observed at the battlefronts in the coming months.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I thank you and all our dear fighters who achieved this victory for our nation and pray that God will uphold this attitude of appreciation that our nation has for its warriors.

Prime Minister Musavi Holds News Conference

LD1406205588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jun 88

[News conference by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi with unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 14 June—recorded]

[Text] [Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate the Islamic warriors on their latest victories, and on the lesson they have given the enemy through the destruction of his forces. I am ready to answer any questions the brothers may have.

[Question] What is your latest news on the victories of the Islamic warriors at the fronts?

[Musavi] The news I have speaks of the hard blow our forces delivered to the enemy. It is enough for us to note that during these operations, which have rightly come to be known as the great operations for the destruction of Iraqi forces, our fighters captured more than 2,000 troops. Thus, you can guess (?how great were) the losses and casualties inflicted on the enemy, on top of the booty that has fallen into the hands of our warriors. The impact of this blow will be very severe in shattering the climate that Saddam's accomplices have created inside Iraq and among the Iraqi Armed Forces with the support of the propaganda mouthpieces of global arrogance, and also outside Iraq, and among those who supported Iraq. They thought that after the developments in Al-Faw and Shalamcheh, Saddam would find an escape route, or they believed the propaganda they had spread to the effect that the war had weakened the resolve, steadfastness, and resistance of our country. All this will have a tremendous impact.

I believe that Saddam has been forced to take back some of the medals he keeps giving away so freely and in such large numbers. Of course, many of the Iraqi Army

commanders in the region—some of them were not killed, and some of them were captured by the forces of Islam, and those are the fortunate ones from Saddam's [word indistinct] Army.

We congratulate our nation and our fighters on this record.

This is an overture to a movement related to the battlefront. Gradually, with the appointment of the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and with the coherence that will result in our forces, and, with the great resources of our country, the most important of which is our revolutionary attitude, the continued resistance will clearly culminate in the enemy's defeat. Even if every foreign power supports Saddam's regime, as they have until now, this historic opportunity, the result—I am talking about yesterday's operations—the results are so great that we would on no account give up the achievement of our rights and the historic opportunity that has arisen for our nation, an opportunity not seen in the last few centuries. Even though this task is accompanied by hardships and difficulties, they are worth it in return for the establishment of an independent, powerful order that does not rely on foreign powers, and allows people to be raised as independent and noble themselves, and as independent people from the start. To me, this is something that gives meaning to yesterday's operations.

[Question] Mr Musavi, my other question concerned the presentation of the cabinet to the Majlis. Could you please tell us when this will take place and what changes will take place among the ministers?

[Musavi] Once the cabinet has been elected, the government can be presented to the Majlis within 2 months. But, to clarify the status of the government and to establish the ministries, I intend to be present in the Majlis in about 10 or 15 days time. If the esteemed Majlis will give its vote and come out in favor of the present government continuing its work, I will present the members of the cabinet. Naturally, I feel we should attempt to achieve some degree of stability in the ministries. As such, I do not believe there should be any sweeping changes in the government. It is with this idea in mind that we will try to stabilize the leadership, unless someome is not satisfied with his post and wants to go and serve in another trench. Thus, God willing, we will present the new government to the Majlis with these changes.

[Question] Mr Musavi, you took part in a meeting yesterday with the governors general. Could you please tell us if you have been successful with the projects that have been envisaged and their implementation in the provinces, in general? There have been reports of changes in local government.

[Musavi] The project was successful, I believe. Of course, that is not just what I feel. My opinion is based on the data and figures we receive from the Central Bank and other formal institutions. Yesterday's discussions focused on an important point, which was that the origins of inflation go back to such issues as shortages of funds, delays in primary products, foreign exchange matters, and similar things. Naturally, the question of fixing prices has little to do with these origins, but the question of fixing prices, control, and state punishment become necessary tools when there are grounds for pressure and without which things could prove tragic for society.

The project was successful in each province, according to the reports we heard yesterday. Efforts were made to eliminate the defects of the project and to study the expansion of the scheme, and to collaborate at a national level. For instance, the scheme works well in one province and not so well in another, which has an immediate impact on the national level, at the level of the national market. God willing, we hope this scheme will succeed, for we believe it is a vital project for our resistance at a time when there are plans to impose many pressures on us from beyond the borders. If we are to achieve relative stability as far as our essential and staple goods are concerned, we must make this project work. That will have its relative impact on other products as well.

[Question] Mr Musavi, in light of the appointment of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the imam's decree on unity and solidarity among the forces associated with the war, what are the government's programs and what changes will be taking place in the new cabinet? Will any ministries be merged?

[Musavi] As for the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the headquarters that was established—right at that time—we did declare the government's readiness, officially and in our talks, to participate fully and to help this sacred matter. Naturally, all the government's resources have been at the service of the war from the very start. That is especially true of the latest case; we—the esteemed speaker of the Majlis—we raised the point that they can use the existing manpower in the government and the executive as much as they want. We have strong directorates in important sectors. Uniting them with the war sector can lead to something. We hope this will happen, God willing, for the things that are now being talked about and discussed are relevant to this same matter; in other words, a directorate that has been nurtured in the revolution, enduring the hardships and suffering after the revolution... [changes thought] we have exceptional managing directors in different departments who can be of great help to the cause of the war. That is on top of the government's financial, material, and supply facilities and all the government's policies—our foreign policy, our domestic and monetary policies—all these are affected by the war in one way or another. As for introducing the new government, I have already said that we are trying to complete that task as soon as possible. Under the circumstances, the sooner the status of the ministries and cabinet are clarified, the better. I have always felt that

just when it gets close to obtaining a vote of confidence and such things, a bit of laxity and slackness creeps into the machinery of government. Obviously, our revolutionary ministers and managing directors fight this problem every time. In any case, we are trying to resolve the matter as soon as possible, for that would help the country.

[Question] Do you expect the lack of [word indistinct] basic changes on regional issues, Saudi Arabia, the countries along the shore of the Persian Gulf and within OPEC to continue? Even if prices are defined [words indistinct] will cause the price of crude oil to fall. What plans does the Islamic Republic of Iran have to deal with this, taking the latest OPEC session into account?

[Musavi] Of course, this pressure has been there in the past, as Saudi Arabia has always worked for the United States in the form of [word indistinct]. It has also been a spokesman for Western interests in the region and within OPEC. It has always betrayed those nations that have oil; it has betrayed the members of (?that organization). However, there is a limit to everything they do, that is, they do not go beyond a certain point due to the problems they have both in terms of their own nations and their dependent economic structures. That prevents them from seeing prices fall below a certain level, as their economic structures, their economic instability, and the likely increase in the crisis they may experience in their economy can jeopardize their very existence. Several years ago, 2 or 3 years ago, when the price of oil dropped to 6 or 7 dollars, well... [changes thought] our nation is a revolutionary nation that tolerated that. It is ready to tolerate hardships and it knows that it is undergoing a historic struggle to build an independent country and an independent economy.

However, Saudi Arabia and these reactionary Arab countries have no such spirit. The first thing that appeared was a deep imbalance in the development and growth of those states. For the first time, we heard about huge budget deficits in Saudi Arabia and other Arab (?oil) countries. That is one point.

The other is the limits imposed by the terms of international markets. In any case, there are limits. What I heard from the OPEC meeting and what I was discussing yesterday with Mr Aqazadeh is that, compared with the previous situation, there will be no step back. The current discussions concern the progress that could be made, limits on production ceilings, and higher prices. In general, the discussions have reached the point where no one dares talk of a drop in OPEC prices or a return to those prices that arrogant countries forced on the oil market several years ago.

In any case, our oil minister and all our experts are confronting the various tricks of the arrogant countries. They may make something happen at any time, but unanimity in the opinions of the envoys of the majority of producer countries can neutralize them. What I have heard is that there is now a majority in OPEC, within which Iran has a rather prominent role, and a minority that consists of reactionary countries in the region led by Saudi Arabia. It seems that because of their grudge against the Islamic Republic, this has a great effect on their decisionmaking, which works against the interests of their nation and the interests of all oil-producing countries. Because of this matter—that is, the delivery of a blow to the revolution— they are virtually taking orders from Satan and causing problems. I don't think they will get anywhere.

[Question] Mr Musavi, I have a question: On the (?withdrawal) of Soviet occupation troops from Afghanistan and the developments caused by the resistance forces in their battle with that regime, could you please tell us what the prospects are for that country's future, and if there is any need for another review of the status of Afghan refugees in our country?

[Musavi] The Soviet withdrawal should be considered a positive step, and it should have been done some time ago. However, it is happening now, and the Soviet Union will benefit if it is completed quickly. This step must be (?completed) along with subsequent ones so calm may be restored to Afghanistan. The subsequent steps should be the establishment of a government that reflects the votes of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the formation of a government in keeping with the values of the Afghan nation. That can eliminate the sources of tension and produce a situation whereby we would have an order [nezam] there that is friendly with its neighbors and opposed to American influence in the region, in short, an order that can think about the goals of its own nation and the creation of a climate full of understanding, peace, and calm in the region.

It is under these circumstances that one can focus seriously on the question of solving the Afghan refugee problem. The Afghan refugees are a superficial issue. An invader entered that country, brought pressure to bear, made the people wretched and miserable, made them take up war, a war they did not want, pressures caused by despondency, calamity, war, resistance, and fighting—these were all factors explaining why we have a large number of refugees in Pakistan and Iran. Their number is a reflection of this situation. As soon as the causes for the flight of these refugees is removed—the cause is the presence of foreign forces there, and there is a kind of imposed aid in Afghanistan—the refugee problem will be solved naturally. I don't think there will be any problems here.

[Question] How are relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain and France?

[Musavi] Our relations are generally based on certain principles: Mutual interests and the adoption of two equal stances. As far as Britain is concerned, the dispute is nothing more than the fact that we had an embassy there. If you brothers remember, during the early days of

the revolution an event took place. There was an attack by counterrevolutionaries, and the British police stormed the building. In addition to those martyred in the assault, the storming of the building caused a huge fire, which destroyed the embassy. It was then left unrepaired. Under the circumstances, the host country normally pays for the damage. There was a similar dispute concerning the British Embassy in our country. The current discussion is over the same thing. That is, that they pay for the repairs to our embassy, or pay for the damage done to our embassy, and we pay them for the damage suffered by their embassy. Apparently, as far as I have heard, there is a figure, but I will not give the exact figure here. That is the only dispute we have with Britain.

As for France [as heard], there has been a great deal of sensationalism in the British press and they have tried to link the issue with future relations between Iran and Britain, the hostage question, and other similar problems. That is entirely their own analysis. However, what is actually taking place now is a dialogue over the damage done to the embassies. Of course, this can be considered a step forward to remove the existing pressure on the two countries' relations. But it can have a purely financial meaning. It depends on the way one interprets and analyzes the issue.

In terms of France, as declared by the French Government and Iran, there is currently some degree of understanding. I don't think it will be long before the two countries announce a formal resumption of their ties and restore relations. The talks can continue in the future, on the basis of the same mutual interests and creation of a healthy relationship. That is, relations which are based not on an attitude of a major power and a minor one, but relations restored on the basis of an independent stand. This is one blessing of the Islamic revolution, which is establishing itself in the world. In other words, they should not treat the Islamic Republic of Iran as a humble, small, underdeveloped, and such and such country. Rather, they should view it as a liberated country with an independent identity, an equal. Of course, for the sake of this gain the Islamic Republic has given many martyrs; and all the martyrs, hardship, and suffering that our nation has tolerated has led to a situation where the Islamic Republic is recognized as a first-rate power and not a second-rate one, as most Third World countries are.

[Question] As you know, consultation and coordination among the ministers is something that will help advance affairs. Recently, there has been some duplication in the duties of various ministers. Please explain what measures the government has taken to prevent such occurrences.

[Musavi] Yes, from time to time there are some duplications. From a legal viewpoint, various ministries and ministers are responsible for their own sections. Comments about each section should be expressed by the relevant minister and his view should be regarded nationwide as the official view. However, it is natural that owing to the serious political atmosphere prevailing in our country and to the sensitivity which each feels for another, as a result of the best intentions and in order to help and provide information to the people it is possible that at times one minister or an official— t may be better to say generally an official—may express an opinion which might be seen as an intrusion on the duties of another minister. In general, one should say this is harmful and should never happen. It is better for each official to speak for himself, and for the coordination to be made in the cabinet so that such an issue may not arise in practice. In such circumstances the ministries will make better progress, and the responsible officials will also feel more responsible for the duties in their jurisdiction and will act more boldly regarding the matters under their jurisdiction.

[Question] Prime Minister, please. Normally in wartime governments enjoy special powers for dealing with proablems. As some of the bills are rather unclear and as some legal vacuums exist, and in view of the formation of the new Majlis and the new cabinet which is to be formed, what measures will you take?

[Musavi] In wartime, as you pointed out, it is better for the executive branch to enjoy greater authority so that it may act more easily. This is quite natural. However, as regards the bills—as you pointed out, we suffer from a legal vacuum—thanks be to God, with the appointment of the council for deciding that which is expedient which was set up his holiness the imam as the great support of the revolution, we hope that the problem will be resolved. Not only may those bills be resolved, but I hope that we will make some progress in other fields as well.

For instance, in the council for deciding expediency, the issue of drug addiction is being discussed. From a legal and constitutional point of view, we had some problems regarding coordination between the executive branch and the judiciary and other organizations. In the council for deciding expediency the brothers reviewed all three branches and prepared a plan which the council is now studying. This will provide good coordination between all the branches, whether the executive, the security forces, or the judiciary, and it will lead to good results. Well, this is one of the cases, apart from the bills which have been left undecided and which have faced some difficulties in the Majlis, which have now been referred to the council. They will be discussed in turn in the council for deciding expediency.

However, regarding the government in the future, in the speech which I will make in the Majlis I will dwell a little on the third important point which his holiness the imam made in his message to the Majlis, in which he referred to the solution of complications [pich o kham ha] and administrative difficulties.

As a resolution, I think that the best possible solution would be—and in other parts of the world where they have strong executive branches they act in the same way—for the Majlis to be active in the field of important legislation, important bills, supervision, and so on. It acts in all these fields, and is in charge of affairs. However, in organizational matters [omur-e tashkilati] it should give more power to the government in executive matters, in organizational matters, so that we will not need to refer to the Majlis in every case, and so that the executive branch may have greater power for changes inside its own system, whether from the viewpoint of human resources, in organizational matters, whether in amalgamations, mergers, or dissolutions. In this way the executive branch can adapt to the changing situation. Due to the interest the executive branch has in its own organization, I think that this will be a very important step. Of course, the Majlis should define the framework and exert its supervision in this field for the sake of national interests; it should define the framework. However, this relationship should provide the government with greater scope. At the moment, in order to merge two companies we have to introduce two bills into the Majlis. This is what the imam of the ummah often refers to as wasting time on minor issues. The government is forced to submit bills to the Majlis to resolve its problems. On the other hand, the Majlis is forced to spend time on those issues. As a result, a great deal of time is wasted. The government does not bother to become involved in a lot of these changes, which are minor in themselves but when they are added up they can prove very important. The government knows that each one of them might need a great deal of time and what eventually is decided in the Majlis may be contrary to the government's expectations; namely, they may not accord with the earlier plans and projects.

This is something I wish to discuss to some extent in the Majlis. The issue of the law of public accounts was discussed in the second Majlis. While we were inplementing that law we announced the government's views on this matter on several occasions. We feel it is not in keeping with the revolutionary climate governing our society; a transformation in this law can bring about a transformation in our administrative order.

At the moment, we are faced with certain difficulties in connection with the implementation of this law. We should discuss this with the Majlis so that they resolve the problem, while also providing proper supervision over public funds, expenditures, and so on. We do not oppose any of these, but the methods now prevailing are not in keeping with modern management and with the advanced, active, and progressive methods needed by our country. They are not in keeping with the values of the Islamic Revolution. A transformation should take place. There are such plans and we hope that with the attitude prevailing in the third Majlis, a revolutionary attitude, an attitude that is eager to work and wants to work for the benefit of the oppressed, that wants to eliminate the problems in the management system, we feel that the Majlis should resolve these with greater ease. The government will also side with the Majlis and will try to cope with these difficulties.

[Question] Mr Musavi, I have another question. Recently there were some disruptions in electricity, and water supply, and other areas. What happened and what steps are being taken to resolve this problem?

[Musavi] Regarding the shortages, this point should be made clear to our people. The pressures which exist in Tehran should be clear to the dear people of Tehran. The issue does not reflect on the strong and capable management force in the country. Certain shortages are unavoidable. For instance, each year we have to invest some funds in our our industries and also to expand electricity supplies to villages and towns. These investments and those for spare parts, raw materials, and maintenance require foreign exchange and material resources. We are faced with certain limitations in meeting these needs inside the country. They are bound to create certain difficulties. However, in connection with these difficulties, in order not to provide our enemies with details they can use against us, I may not be able to describe this in detail. I should say that they are really performing miracles, they perform a huge amount of work.

As a result of these hardships, the next step has often been discussed in connection with the manufacture of weapons: The limitations imposed by the enemy has enabled us to manufacture weapons ourselves, to design them and make them ourselves. Whenever we are faced with one of these difficulties or shortages, due to financial and foreign exchange limitations, they force us to become more innovative, creative, a situation that enables us to cope more easily with less dependence on outside resources. Here I should ask the people who are interested in their country, the pious people in the big towns, particularly in Tehran, to recognize these limitations, and at the same time to have faith in the management capability—a result of the revolution—to resolve these problems, which in my view is without any parallel anywhere in the world and in our entire history. God willing, we will try to minimize these difficulties.

[Question] Mr Musavi, recently, after France and England expressed their desire to establish relations with the Islamic Republic, some U.S. officials also expressed their desire to hold discussions with the officials of the Islamic Republic. Even in the Western mass media this issue has been raised in different ways. What are your views on this matter?

[Musavi] Since the very beginning the United States has, on the one hand, continued its mischief in the Persian Gulf and in the region, against the revolution throughout the world, using the financial, economic, and military means at its disposal. On the other hand, it has constantly maintained it wants to restore relations. When the United States was busy organizing the Nowzheh

coup [attempt at action by Air Force pilots stationed at Nowzheh Air Base directed against the leaders of the Islamic Republic] inside our country at the beginning of the revolution, even then it expressed its desire to have the good relations with the Islamic Republic. During the Tabas incident when it suffered that calamity in the desert, even then it made the same claim. Even now, despite the confiscation of billions of dollars' worth of our property, our facilities, and our weapons in the United States, and despite all its mischief in the Persian Gulf, in the United Nations, and everywhere, it continues to repeat the same refrain.

On the one hand, it is a sign of the greatness of the revolution, the unity of the revolution, and the reality of the revolution that it has been confirmed throughout the world. On the other hand, we should be aware that these requests are requests made mischievously for the sake of delivering blows and of advancing U.S. policies in the region and against our country. Behind these remarks, if we pin our hopes on the fact that the United States has changed its ways, has set aside its mischief-making, and has forgotten its hostility toward the revolution, then we shall certainly slide down a slippery slope. This can create serious difficulties for the revolution.

This is our analysis. To raise these issues in the world is natural. However, as far as we are concerned, we see before our eyes a whole catalogue of extensive and continuous U.S. aggression. In the past year we have witnessed their actions in the Persian Gulf: They brought their most advanced weapons and warships to this region and have followed this policy throughout the world. This should provide a clear warning to our nation and to the government which enables us to choose our path.

Thank you very much brothers for your kindness. I hope you will be successful.

Musavi Terms Clergy Role 'Irreplaceable'
LD1406233088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0938 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; monitored in progress — recorded]

[Excerpts] ....5 June, however, is a day of mourning and a day for the Islamic ummah's future. It is also a day for the clergy to ponder their own fate and the reasons behind their crucial role in the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

I want to say that before the revolution the clergy's role as leaders having the confidence of the people developed from their special characteristics. These same characteristics prompted the public to recognize them as a resource on 9 February 1978 [popular uprising allowing Khomeyni to return to Iran] when the clergy preserved the Islamic Revolution in spite of moves by the left and the right. The clergy's role was diversified and they were given more responsibility after the revolution. They must meet this responsibility if they wish to play the same role after the Islamic Revolution. In fact, there is no reason, God forbid, for diminishing the clergy's role in our society. On the contrary, our Islamic Revolution will continue to evolve if the clergy play its role. [passage omitted]

This responsibility places certain (?obligations) on the clergy. First, the clergy must have extensive knowledge of current events; this is very important. Of course, this is not to say that our clergy do not have this knowledge. [passage omitted] Today the new society we have established and which serves as a model to the world requires more extensive awareness from our clergymen. [passage omitted] The clergy must recognize both the plots aimed at the revolution and at the Islamic ummah, and must understand social problems, economic affairs, our people's lifestyles, and their cultural and social problems. At the international level, they must have a deep awareness of all widescale movements of deprived and downtrodden people, as well as of the Islamic nations. [passage omitted] Our clergy is obliged and dutybound to be familiar with these issues.

These issues are diverse and include foreign policy, international affairs, domestic issues, and economic and cultural problems. Furthermore, these issues are constantly changing, so we must be prepared to deepen our knowledge and to feel the presence of our clergy when dealing with them. If this does not occur, the clergy will be left behind and cause problems. On the other hand, familiarity with such issues will give our system, our nation, and our great Islamic ummah great power. This is one of the important points.

After the revolution, as a result of the responsibilities they undertook, the clergy has been forced to regard social justice as a very fundamental issue. Before the revolution the clergy was in a position to criticize. They would criticize, point out the roots of injustice, difference, and the black roots of colonialism. They would teach people how to stand up to foreigners and warn of the dangers of Israel and the United States and of being dependent. This put the clergy in position of power and leadership. In that respect, the clergy was at the forefront of society's political forces, despite the fact that the monarchy labeled them reactionary. [passage omitted]

In the imam, as the source of goodness for the clergy, we continue to find a voice, a face, a cry that always defends the deprived. We saw that in 1963, and it has intensified following the revolution. Why? Because the imam of the ummah has always looked upon the role of leadership as a means to guide the population and direct the entire system toward the establishment of social justice. The greatest goals of the Islamic Revolution are found in the imam's remarks and his guidance in this respect. We also expect our clergy to have this.

The destiny of the clergy in our country and among the entire Islamic ummah is centered over its attention to the establishment of Islamic justice. This is not a small issue; it is one of our principles. If we want an Islamic government, if an Islamic Government has a priority over other issues, then the indivisable part of the Islamic Government is the establishment of justice based on Islamic criteria. The clergy must be responsible for its establishment and continuation. The clergy should lead the way in this respect and open new paths. We learned about the type of justice described by clergy from the clergy.

We learned this sitting below the pulpit, in the mosques, because our clergy were the ones who shouted for the justice that will change the destiny of humanity. Naturally, once we changed into a system — a system that wants to be a model for the Islamic world — then if the clergy wishes to play its leading role then the first, the most correct, beautiful, encompassing statements must come from our clergy. This is expected from our clergy. Our people expect this from the the clergy. I would like to return to the importance of looking at this issue, which aided the continuation of the revolution during the past 10 years. We see this in many instances. [passage omitted praising revolutionary slogans by the leadership and denouncing the mini-group's behaviour at the early stages following the victory of the revolution] What the imam of the ummah did was to come forward and issue noble slogans and also show the emptiness of the slogans of the groups which, in one form or another, coveted the fruits of the revolution and wanted to tilt the revolution toward the left or right. This is one of the special attributes of the imam of ummah that we observed.

Before I go to my last point, I would like to talk about another issue and that is that we find in our imam of the ummah a model for our clergy and our entire ummah, for caring and awareness of small and large issues concerning the population. The major issues, various issues that exist for the leadership, have not distracted him from social issues. He is not unaware of economic issues, social and political issues, majlis issues, various political movements. In this respect not only do we see the imam as involved with the issues, but as a leader of the movements guiding the population. The important issue and one that the clergy must pay attention to — if they pay attention to this they will continue to enjoy the role they have been playing so far and we find it in the imam of ummah — is that the clergy must continiously look forward and lead the population in action and in slogans. The position of our clergy cannot fundamentally be conservative. The clergy of a revolutionary systme cannot be the follower of political groups.

In our most fundamental social slogans, about economic and political issues we must have the most progressive and strongest arguments in the hands of the clergy. They should have the best arguments. Relying on philosophy, on the Koran, on all that they have learned in the history of Islam, the traditions of the prophet, from the traditions of the Imams — blessing be upon them — and from the behavior of the past sources of emulation, from within Islamic jurisprudence, from all that they learn, the clergy must retain their progressive attitude while continuing to learn. They must be actively in the forefront. The imam is a natural leader, he is naturally in the forefront he has such attitudes. [passage omitted]

We have the issue of foreign trade. We don't wish anyone to do anything contrary to religious dictates in this respect. We want to say that our clergy's responsibility is to understand the issues related to third world nations' foreign trade and to understand the plots aimed at all Islamic countries, particularly at the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect, and through their religious knowledge to express their views on this matter. The clergy cannot look at the history of foreign trade in this respect. He must learn the nature of foreign trade. WHAT the officials want, what those involved with the administration want is exactly this and nothing else. We wish to say that the clergy must understand issues related to this in order to be able to guide the country. In order to be able to ensure the future of our system with respect to labor issues — in order to safeguard ourselves as a country which is the target of all sorts of plots — with respect to domestic and foreign issues and in order to be a model for the world's oppressed, in order to be able to safeguard the revolution from the dangers that threaten it, our clergy must be conversant with issues of production, lrbor, factories. Such familiarity will mean that whatever the final outcome, it will be in the country's interests, it will definitely be in our system's interests's and in the interests of all the oppressed of the world because it would be Islamic. [passage omitted]

What we can summarize from the events of 5 June, from the role of the clergy during the revolution and their role during the past 10 years, is that they are like an irreplaceable source of wealth. It cannot be replaced in our system. It is a strong fort that defends the Islamic revolution, mobilizes the people. It is a source that is trusted by people and a focus attracting everyone. Our greatest weapon in opposing international oppression, if we want to keep the system erect, if they want to be the leaders and continue this immense role, just like the imam of the ummah who is at the forefront of the clergy, the source of their inspiration, is that the clergy must pay attention to all these issues and be at the forefront of these issues. This is the meaning of the combatant clergy for our society. The combatant clergy had special attributes during 11 February and must retain them after the Revolution, but new attributes, stemming from the formation of the Islamic Government, must also be cultivated in them and this is a reflection of the realities that have been created in today's world by the Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

Musavi Says U.S. 'Resentful' of Successes

LD1506110588 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA—The cabinet held a session here Wednesday morning presided over by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi.

Latest domestic and foreign developments were discussed. The ministers were also briefed about the June 13 "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operations in Shalamcheh region which caused massive destruction to enemy forces and its war machine.

Commenting outside the meeting on U.S. denial of reports of Iran's successful thrust near Shalamcheh, southern fronts, Musavi said that the victory of Iran's Muslim combatants does not need U.S. recognition to be described as such.

"The great Satan," he continued, considers Iranian victory a set-back for itself and, therefore in a bid to boost the morale of its protege government in Iraq resorts to propaganda campaigns." He said the U.S. intelligence service is both "resentful and blind" since it does not seem to see the thousands of Iraqi soldiers taken prisoner by Iran's Muslim combatants Monday.

Karrubi Confirms Pilgrims Not Going to Mecca

LD1506101088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Interview with Mehdi Karrubi, the imam's representative in the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, by unidentified correspondent; time and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Karrubi, in view of the fact that we are approaching the first week of hajj rituals for this year, could you, the imam's representative, explain the way that Iranian pilgrims will participate at the hajj rituals this year?

[Karrubi] In the name of god, the compassionate, the merciful. As our compatriots and other officials are aware, a tragic event took place in Mecca last year and a large number of Muslim pilgrims to the divine sanctuary were martyred by officers of the Al Sa'ud regime. The majority of the martyrs were Iranians and some were from other Islamic countries. Following this crime, instead of expressing regret and repenting, the Al Sa'ud regime unfortunately created obstacles against the visit by the Hezbollah ummah of Islamic Iran and prevented the arrival of Iranian pilgrims. [Words indistinct] of Iranian pilgrims created difficulties for the Muslims in some other countries too. Using vague excuses, creating obstacles, and making unjustified remarks, it became clear that we are not going to have the honor at present. However, I would like to mention a point. Although our people are deprived of the honor this year of going to the house of God, their ideology, thinking, the imam's world outlook and the instructions of the imam and of the Islamic ummah will be implemented and carried out there; and no doubt the ceremony demonstrating Muslims' disavowal of the infidels and of the enemies of Islam will take place near the house of God. No doubt the Muslims will be upset to see that the Iranian Muslims, who are the vanguards of the struggle against Zionism, are absent. Naturally, the corrupt Al Sa'ud regime is not in favor of Islam and of safeguarding the interests of Islam. That regime is only in favor of serving the interests of the United States and the Zionists. The regime, therefore, finds it unbearable when the slogans "Death to the United States" and "Death to Israel" are chanted there.

We, thus, remind the Muslims once again that they must think of a solution and a way of saving the holy house of God from the hand of this corrupt regime; and a group from the Islamic world and a team of Islam's scholars must become servants of the two holy places, and the two holy places should be under their control so that Islamic policies are practiced and implemented there. The two holy places are not like ordinary cities in a country where a regime or a ruler can impose his desires and policies there. Only Islamic programs, based on the principles and interests of Islam, should be carried out there.

Another point I would like to mention is the hajj week. As you said, we are on the eve of this occasion. I call upon the Hezbollah ummah, writers, the press, the radio, and television to mark this year's hajj week more gloriously and with greater enthusiasm, God willing. We hope that this program will continue until 21 July, the day of disavowal against the infidels. If you remember, during a seminar in Iran, when more than 300 world scholars, well-known figures of the Islamic world, attended the seminar, a resolution was passed. One of the articles of the resolution was to fix that date as the day of disavowal against the infidels so that demonstrations and marches are held all over the Islamic world to honor the memory of martyrs. In Islamic Iran, too, 21 July will be marked with as much glory as possible and, God willing, the people will take part. God willing, there will be a huge march, and, God willing, similar programs will be organized in other Islamic countries to mark the day. God willing, these program will take place according to the resources of each country.

For the time being, the Al Sa'ud regime has prevented our pilgrims from going to Mecca and has created obstacles. No doubt, that regime has to answer to all the Muslims.

SFRY Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Velayati

LD1406102988 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—The Yugoslav minister of foreign affairs Budimir Loncar arrived here Monday

night on a three-day official visit. The Yugoslav minister is to discuss with Iranian officials mutual relations and international issues.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who greeted Loncar at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport said that both Iran and Yugoslavia are active members of the Nonaligned Movement and that exchange visits between officials of the two countries especially on the eve of the nonaligned meeting is necessary.

Discusses Non-Aligned Movement

LD1406154788 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar who is here at the head of a political delegation started the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali-Akbar Velayati, here today.

In the meeting, the visiting minister lauded the Islamic revolution, Iranian people and their culture, called for expansion of mutual ties in political, economic, and cultural fields.

He also stressed his country's interest to exchange with Iran political delegations at higher levels, and extended invitations to President 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on behalf of Yugoslav leaders to visit Belgrade.

In response, Velayati welcoming the Yugoslav delegation referred to the fact that the Islamic Republic attaches significance to its relations with Belgrade and also expressed Iran's interest to expand bilateral ties in all fields.

The two officials also discussed their countries' cooperation at the forthcoming foreign ministers' session of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to be held in Cyprus.

On the NAM, Velayati pointing that the movement had failed to be as active as envisaged, called for a serious change in its policies. He also criticized NAM for its negligence to take serious stands concerning Iraqi aggression against Islamic Iran, including Baghdad's use of chemical arms, bombardment of Iran's residential areas, and attacks against cargo ships and passenger planes.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides expressed hope that the expansion of mutual commercial, cultural and industrial relations would be seriously discussed in the Iran-Yugoslavia joint commission to be held in Belgrade within the next two weeks.

Khamene'i Meets With Envoys to Cuba, CSSR, Syria

LD1306152088 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA—The new Iranian ambassador-designate to Cuba Mahmud Sadri Taba'i met President 'Ali Khamene'i here today and received guidelines regarding the country of his assignment.

Meanwhile, President Khamene'i also received Iranian ambassadors to Czechoslovakia and Syria, Hamid Reza Hoseyni and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, in separate meetings here on the same day. The two reported to the president on their areas of assignment.

Iraqi Mirage Downed Over Gulf

LD1506151988 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 15 Jun 88

[Text] Bushehr, June 15, IRNA—An Iraqi "Mirage" jet-fighter was downed in dogfight with an Iranian jet-fighter over the Persian Gulf at 12:20 hours local time (08:50 GMT) Wednesday, said an Air Force commander here today.

There is yet no report on the fate of the plane's pilot and search for finding him is underway, the commander said.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

'Heavy' Iraqi Losses Noted

NC1306154388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1515 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, according to reports, 20 more enemy vehicles, tanks, and armored personnel carriers from the III Iraqi Corps have been destroyed in the operational sector of the "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operations. This brings the total number of vehicles destroyed to 130.

In an interview with Central News Unit correspondents in the operational sector, a commander has said that the "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operations have inflicted heavy losses on four divisions of the III Iraqi Corps, which had been stationed in a 100 square km area west of Shalmacheh. According to this commander, a large number of senior Iraqi commanders were killed or taken prisoner in today's surprise attacks.

Casualties in Chemical Attack

LD1406152188 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on Bol-Hassan village [placename as received] near Baneh, Kordestan Province, today, martyring two villagers and poisoning ten others. The chemical attack was carried out at 08:00 hours (04:30 GMT).

Communique No 3,233

LD1406174488 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—Iran's Air Force fighter-bombers heavily bombed Iraqi troop-concentration sites, fortifications and armoured equipment in "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" operational region at 09:45, 09:55 and 10:15 GMT Tuesday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 3233d communique of the Joint Staff Command announcing the above said all fighters returned to the bases safely after inflicting substantial damage and casualities on the enemy forces.

The communique said Iranian Air Force pilots effectively carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in support of the Navy Monday, reconnoitering some 43 foreign vessels including tankers, cargo ships and boats.

Iran's Navy patrolling the southern waters, yesterday checked movement of three Iraqi vesses around the Al-'Amayah platform, at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf, it added.

On the battlefronts, the communique said, Muslim combatants of the Army's Ground Forces subjected Iraqi positions, fortifications, supply routes and motorized columns to their heavy fire Monday, killing and wounding several Ba'thist forces. Some gun emplacements of the enemy were also destroyed by the Iranian combatants' heavy fire, it added.

In the northwestern fronts yesterday, two Iraqi patrol groups were subjected to Iranian combatants' fire in the Sayyid Sadiq and Kharratha regions and were forced to flee, said the communique.

Movement of Iraqi tanks in Sumar operational region as well as enemy's engineering activities in Panjwin were subjected to heavy Iranian fire Monday as a result of which Ba'thist troops sustained substantial damage and casualties.

The communique said movement of Iraqi motorized columns in Maymak and Yebis regions was brought to a halt Monday.

Elsewhere on the battlefronts, Iran's Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions inflicting damage and casualties on the enemy, it added.

Meanwhile Iraqi warplanes attempted to violate the air space of a southern Iranian island yesterday but were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire, concluded the communique.

Iraqis Bomb Own Troops With Gas

LD1406174788 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes mistakenly dropped chemical bombs on their own positions in Shalamcheh operational theater today, the scene of Iran's victorious "Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" blitz.

According to IRNA correspondents in the region the Iraqi chemical bombardment was carried out during today's fighting, in which enemy troops probably suffered heavy casualties due to the proximity of the frontlines.

Iraqi warplanes had earlier dropped chemical bombs on Iranian positions in the region Monday, but the alertness of de-contamination units quickly cleared the area of any toxic effects.

"Bayt al-Moqaddas-7" was launched in Shalamcheh region southern fronts early Monday morning, with Iranian combatants inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the Ba'thist enemy.

Iraq Executes 200 More Political Prisoners

LD1306161488 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 13 Jun 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 13, IRNA—The Iraqi Ba'thist regime has massacred 200 more political prisoners, adding another black page to its criminal record.

According to Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps' irregulars here today the political dissidents were mass executed by firing squads, while being transferred from Kirkuk to Ramadi prison, in northwestern Iraq.

Pakistan

Spokesman Denies 'Secret' Nuclear Pact With Iran

BK1406160588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] According to a Foreign Office spokesman, Pakistan has not signed any secret nuclear pact with Iran. Denying reports published in certain foreign newspapers on the existence of such an agreement, the spokesman said that no Pakistani scientist has visited Iran's nuclear plant in Bushehr in recent years, nor has any Iranian nuclear expert received advanced training in Pakistan.

He added that there is no question of a secret agreement, as Iran is one of the countries that has already signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and its nuclear facilities are subject to international safeguards.

Indian Charges on Nuclear Program Rejected

BK1406160888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected Indian allegations that Islamabad's nuclear program is weapons-oriented. Ahmad Kamal, Pakistan's UN envoy, told the General Assembly's special disarmament session that there is not a shred of truth to those assertions. He referred to a Carnegie Endowment report, which noted that India had collected 100-200 kg of plutonium, which could be used to manufacture 12-40 nuclear weapons.

Ahmad Kamal reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to establish tension-free, good-neighborly relations with all its neighbors. He called on India to test Pakistan's gesture of friendship. Referring to India's claims of peaceful intentions in the nuclear field, the Pakistani envoy said they must be made concrete through a treaty.

Three Killed in Afghan Attack; Protest Lodged

BK1506000888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1740 GMT 14 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 14 (AFP)—Afghan forces opened fire on a Pakistani village Tuesday killing three people and wounding 14, official sources here said.

The sources said Afghan artillery fired six rounds at Ali Zai village, 10 kilometres (six miles) east of the border town of Chaman in southeastern Baluchistan Province.

Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with Kabul over this "unprovoked attack," the sources said.

The Afghan charge d'affaires here had been summoned to the Foreign Office to receive a warning of "serious consequences" if such attacks did not cease, the sources added.

Sources in the Baluchistan capital Quetta, said all those killed were villagers.

Quoting residents in Chaman, they said Pakistani Border Forces had returned fire and silenced the Afghan guns.

Frequent exchanges of artillery fire have led to fear and insecurity among people living in the border areas, they said, with many fleeing Chaman to seek safety elsewhere.

Meanwhile, reports reaching Quetta said fighting between mujahidin guerrillas and Afghan forces was heavy in Spin Buldak, the last town held by the pro-Soviet Kabul government on the road linking Qandahar with Pakistan.

Heavy casualties were reported on both sides. Wounded mujahidin were arriving in various hospitals in Pakistan and medical centres in Afghan refugees camps, the reports said.

Western diplomats here also reported that Afghan Air Force chief General Aziz Sarwari was killed last week in Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, as fighting intensified and security broke down.